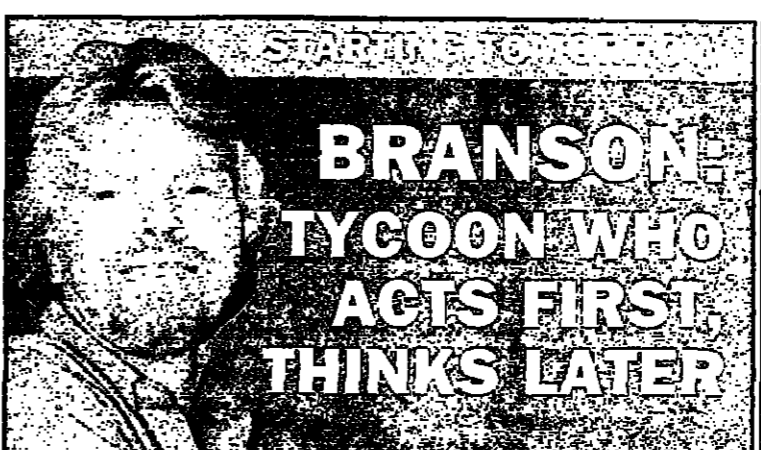


## Dictators AND THEIR DOCTORS

page 13



## BRANSON TYCOON WHO ACTS FIRST, THINKS LATER

**MEDIA:** How to get a job in newspapers pages 38-41

# Walk the road of peace, pleads Clinton

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT CLINTON used his second extraordinary visit to Northern Ireland yesterday to celebrate the "magic" that has brought the Province to the cusp of peace after 30 years of conflict, and to implore its people to seize a chance that would never come again.

"It's your will for peace that has bought your country to this moment of hope. Don't let it slip away. It will not come again in our lifetimes," Mr Clinton said on a day of inspiring speeches and potent symbolism that gave another huge boost to those battling to banish the horrors of the past.

The emotional highlight came when the President and his wife visited Omagh, where they grieved with the wounded and bereaved, thanking them for "standing up in the face of such a soul-searching loss and restating your determination to walk the road of peace". They tearfully unveiled a plaque at the bombed site, and walked solemnly up Market Street to lay a wreath outside the Waterstones clothing shop which lost three assistants in the blast.

Mr Clinton visited Stormont, once the bastion of Unionist rule, to endorse a new Assembly where all but the most extreme will for the first time join to plot a com-

mon future. In brilliant sunshine he inaugurated the site of a cross-community college in West Belfast. He ended a day that had begun at 3am in Moscow at a huge open-air rally for peace and reconciliation in nearby Armagh.

It was a day that bolstered not only Northern Ireland but Mr Clinton's sagging political fortunes. After a dismal Moscow summit, and weeks of battering over the Monica Lewinsky affair, the pictures beamed back to America were of rousing receptions for the peacemaker president and a remarkable personal endorsement by Tony Blair.

"There is no President of the United States of America that has done more for peace in Northern Ireland than you," the Prime Minister declared as he introduced Mr Clinton to an audience of 2,000 dignitaries at Belfast's Waterfront Hall. "If this process ends where we want it to end, in lasting peace in Northern Ireland, then when the history of that peace is written your place within it is assured," he told a President once reviled in London for accommodating Sinn Fein.

The day capped a week of dramatic developments, including Gerry Adams's statement that all violence must end for good. Those words were "music to ears all across the world", Mr Clinton told Sinn Fein's president at the West Belfast ceremony.

Last night Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator, hinted at an even more radical development when asked if decommissioning could be achieved. If all political leaders played their part, "I think we can", he replied.

The day's toughest words Continued on page 2, col 5



Investigators on the dock at Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia, sifting through the belongings of victims of Flight 111. The Swissair jet's flight recorder has not yet been found

# 229 die as jet crashes just minutes from safety

By RICHARD CLEROUX IN PEGGY'S COVE AND TUNIKU VARADARAJAN

RESCUERS gave up all hope last night of finding any survivors from the Swissair jet that crashed off Nova Scotia with 229 people aboard in the early hours of yesterday.



Crash victims: Jonathan Mann, UN Aids expert, and the pilot Urs Zimmermann



Urs Zimmermann, the pilot of Flight 111 from New York to Geneva, had reported smoke in the cockpit and dumped fuel ready for an emergency landing at Halifax airport, but he could not keep the crippled aircraft aloft and it plunged into the Atlantic off the fishing hamlet of Peggy's Cove.

Residents reported loud, spluttering noises as the jet went overhead — one described it as "the worst sounding deep groan that I have ever heard" — just before it hit the ocean with such force that houses shook. Fishermen put to sea and local emergency

services rushed to the coast, but the aircraft had broken into jigsaw-sized pieces on impact, and it took more than an hour to discover where it had gone down. Dozens of ships and boats searched in stormy weather through the night, but while a number of bodies were recovered — some wearing lifejackets — no one was found alive.

The airline's officials gave the names of some of the victims to families who gathered in Switzerland, but said that the full list would not be released until all relatives had been informed, probably on Saturday. The UN, however,

announced that ten of its staff had been on board a flight nicknamed the "UN shuttle". They included the Aids expert Jonathan Mann and his wife Mary-Lou Clements-Mann; two members of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees' staff; two UN Children's Fund officials and two German copyright experts.

In total there were 215 passengers, including two infants, on the McDonnell Douglas MD11 and 14 crew. The dead included 137 Americans, six Britons — five men and a woman who all lived in America — 30 French, 28 Swiss, three Germans, three Italians and two Greeks.

Officials in Switzerland, Canada and America said last night that it was thought unlikely that the plane had been the target of a terrorist attack, but the cause of the crash will probably not be known until the flight record-

ers are recovered from the ocean. Jean-Claude Donzel of Swissair said that investigators were studying four possible reasons: technical problems, human failure, the weather and terrorism.

The flight had left New York at 8.18pm EDT (01.18am BST) and had taken off "normally" to reach its cruising altitude of 33,000ft, but 100 minutes into the flight, the pilot radioed that he was in difficulty.

M Donzel said that the crew had at first planned to fly back to Boston airport, where Swissair has an infrastructure. But they changed their minds and decided to head for Halifax, which was closer.

"The plane crashed about seven minutes before they would have got to Halifax," the pilot had radioed that he was in "serious difficulties", sending the message "Pan, Pan Pan" — an air version of the SOS signal based on the

French and German word *panne* for breakdown.

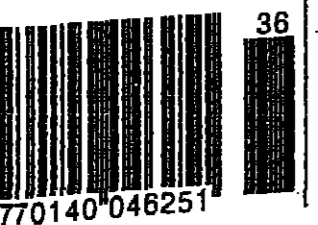
Authorities believe that the terrific speed and sharp angle at which the aircraft hit the water eliminated any chance of anyone surviving. Had it landed at a narrower angle, it might have planed on the water and perhaps remained afloat for up to 20 minutes, as many modern jetliners are designed to do. As it was, would-be rescuers who arrived within minutes found only bits of debris.

Whatever is left of the aircraft is thought to be under 120ft of water, close enough to the surface to show up on underwater radar screens and thus be retrievable by divers. Last night, however, there was no indication of how much of the aircraft was intact or how many passengers may still be strapped into their seats.

Air disaster, pages 16, 17

TV & RADIO ..... 50, 51  
WEATHER ..... 26  
CROSSWORDS ..... 26, 52  
LETTERS ..... 21  
OBITUARIES ..... 23  
MATTHEW PARRIS ..... 20  
AKTS ..... 34-37  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 46  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 22  
BUSINESS ..... 27-31  
STYLE ..... 18  
LAW REPORT ..... 25

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# Many hands make heavy work of plughole drama

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES



Claudie: free at last

THEY were only tiny fingers, but it took 21 pairs of hands to free 16-month-old Claudie Francis when she decided to stick them down the plughole.

The two-hour operation required the assistance of 14 firemen, two paramedics, a doctor, a paediatrician, an anaesthetist, a nurse and an aeronautical engineer.

The trouble started when Claudie removed the plug in her bath while her mother, Linzi, turned to get a towel from the airing cupboard. Fascinated by the swirling water, she tried to find out where it was going. By the time Mrs Francis had

turned round, all four fingers of Claudie's right hand had become firmly wedged in the plughole.

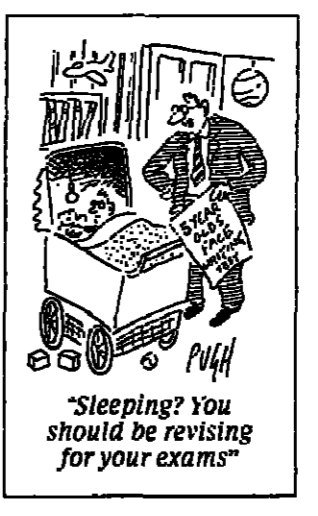
Trying not to panic, she used soap and shampoo to lubricate the fingers but they began to swell. After 20 minutes she was forced to concede defeat and dialled 999. A few minutes later she was joined in the bathroom of her home in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, by seven firemen and two paramedics. They, too, failed to free Claudie and decided to dismantle the bath.

Confident the emergency was safely in hand, the fire crew left and Claudie was taken to Cheltenham General Hospital.

still attached to the plughole. However, after a doctor, a nurse and an anaesthetist had given up the struggle, the fire brigade was called in again. It was then decided the only solution was to scramble Kelvin Tustin, an aircraft engineer, from a nearby aerospace factory with specialist cutting gear.

As Mr Tustin was on his way to the hospital, the firefighters finally managed to cut off the plughole.

Mrs Francis said: "I can't believe someone so little could cause so much trouble." Unfortunately, she said, Claudie still had her eye on the plughole, despite what had happened.



# Streaming for five-year-olds

Five-year-old children should be streamed according to their performance in the "baseline" tests that they take within weeks of starting school, the Schools Minister Charles Clarke said.

Mr Clarke also urged parents not to coach their children for the assessments, which are being introduced this term to help teachers to find out the new pupil's weaknesses and organise tuition accordingly. Page 6

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# Terrorist Bill is dangerous, say sceptical Lords

Nicholas Watt on peers' concerns at rushed legislation

A SENIOR Law Lord yesterday criticised the Government's anti-terrorist legislation as a "dangerous mouse" that would fail to secure any convictions.

Speaking during the Second Reading of the Criminal Justice (Terrorism and Conspiracy) Bill, Lord Lloyd of Berwick said he had grave doubts about attempting to convict terrorists on the word of a senior police officer.

The Bill is designed to toughen anti-terrorist measures by making it easier for courts to convict suspected terrorists of membership of one of four groups opposed to the Northern Ireland peace process. The opinion of a senior police officer that a suspect was a terrorist would be admissible as evidence and courts would be able to draw inference from the refusal of suspects to answer questions.

Lord Lloyd, who carried out a review of Britain's anti-terrorist legislation last year, said police officers normally gave only evidence of fact in court, not opinion. He said: "This is a very odd provision. It is not for a policeman to express an opinion."

Lord Lloyd said he could not see how the measure would work. "A police officer's opinion is only worth what his sources will supply. If he says this is an opinion, that is worth nothing in a court of law. It is only worth something if he can support it. But that is exactly what he cannot do. His opinion is based on evidence that he cannot disclose because it comes from informers and sources."

Lord Lloyd also voiced doubt about the proposal concerning suspects remaining silent, which he said was an infringement that made the Bill a "dangerous mouse". Suspects would simply deny that they were members of one of the banned organisations opposed to the peace process, such as the Real IRA.

The Law Lord said that the only way to secure convictions in such cases would be to

admit evidence from intercepted telephone calls, something the Government has rejected. He told peers: "It is awful to think that during all these years people might have been convicted as a result of introducing intercept evidence."

Lord Lloyd said he would vote for the Bill because of the symbolic importance of responding to the Omagh bombing and acting in tandem with the Irish Government. "It may be that it is nothing more than a gesture. But there are times when gestures are necessary and this is such an occasion."

His criticisms were echoed by Lord Mayhew of Twickenham, the former Northern Ireland Secretary and Attorney-General, who said he had rejected such measures when he was in government. Lord Mayhew said that it was dangerous to rely so strongly on the evi-

dence of a senior police officer.

He said: "I don't think the judges in Northern Ireland ought to be put in this position, because I think it is a dangerous position for them and it comes close to inviting them to approach the issue of guilt or innocence in a way which is not wholly a judicial way. They will be required to decide judicially on the basis of a senior police officer's opinion the issue of guilt or innocence, when often they will not have had, in cross-examination, the basis for that opinion spelt out."

Lord Mayhew said that the measures could create an injustice. "People ought not to be convicted on the hearsay evidence, backed by straws in the wind."

He also challenged the measures in the Bill that are designed to crack down on terrorists, mainly from the Middle East, who use Britain as a base to plot attacks abroad. A conspiracy to commit a terrorist crime abroad could be tried in Britain.

Peers from all parties echoed MPs' criticisms of the Government for rushing through the legislation. Viscount Cranborne, the Tory leader in the Lords, said he would support the Bill, but he criticised the "extraordinarily hurried and unprepared way" it had been introduced.

Lord Williams of Mostyn, the Home Office Minister, said the Bill had been created in response to the murders in Omagh and to the "clear and present danger" of terrorism. Opening the Second Reading debate, he said: "We could have introduced some of the measures contained in this Bill by Order. We thought that was to behave in a wrong way. We had to judge the appropriate course in difficult circumstances and I believe we have done the right thing to recall Parliament so that primary legislation can be passed."

Peers were later moving on to detailed Committee stage consideration of the Bill before it returned to the Commons.



Lord Lloyd: doubts over police "opinion"



Lord Mayhew: Bill could create injustice



Sinn Fein's chief negotiator Martin McGuinness, left, and the party's president, Gerry Adams, meeting President Clinton in Belfast yesterday

# IRA tells rebels to disband or else

THE IRA has given the self-styled Real IRA two weeks to disband or face "action" against its members, it was reported yesterday.

Senior Provisionals visited the homes of around 60 members of the Real IRA and its political counterparts in the 32-County Sovereignty Committee on Tuesday evening. Two unmasked men went to each house and read out a statement from the IRA's army council, the *Irish Times* said.

"The two men who called to my door said the Real IRA had no right to exist and accused it of misappropriating weapons," said one of those who were allegedly threatened.

Group that bombed Omagh has been given two-week deadline, reports Martin Fletcher

Earlier on Tuesday, Gerry Adams had issued a statement all but declaring that the war was over, and demanding those still engaged in violence stop. On Sunday night, the IRA had issued a statement denouncing the Real IRA and demanding it disband.

Republican sources say there is deep and widespread anger within the movement at the damage the Real IRA did to their cause with the Omagh

bomb. The Real IRA has announced a temporary cessation of its "military operations", but it believed to be divided over whether to call a ceasefire.

The IRA may, in fact, be spared the need to breach its own ceasefire by dealing violently with the Real IRA. Draconian new anti-terrorist legislation should have completed its passage through both the British and Irish Parliaments by today, and there

is speculation that the Irish police in particular will use it almost immediately to round up the splinter group's ringleaders.

Peter King, a US Congressman travelling with President Clinton, has meanwhile confirmed that the US Justice Department is preparing to crack down on those raising money for the dissidents in America.

Peter King, a US Congressman travelling with President Clinton, has meanwhile confirmed that the US Justice Department is preparing to crack down on those raising money for the dissidents in America. Peter King, a US Congressman travelling with President Clinton, has meanwhile confirmed that the US Justice Department is preparing to crack down on those raising money for the dissidents in America.

# Peace girl sees dream of future take shape

By Peter Foster

A YOUNG girl who wrote to Tony Blair urging him not to give up on the Northern Ireland peace process saw the first tangible fruits of her labours yesterday.

Margaret Gibney, 13, from the Protestant Shankill Road, has spent the past 14 months highlighting the need for cross-community understanding in one of the poorest and most divided areas of the city.

Yesterday, watched by President Clinton and Mr Blair, she turned the first sod of a £70 million higher education centre to be built on the dividing line of Catholic and Protestant West Belfast. It is hoped the project, backed by the Government and American money, will offer new opportunities to a working class area where unemployment can reach 80 per cent.

As a symbol of the new spirit of co-operation which the Springvale Educational Village hopes to engender, Miss Gibney was joined by a 15-year-old Catholic boy, Gerard Quinn.

Miss Gibney has previously met Mr Blair in Downing Street and Mrs Clinton in Belfast last year. She has also been appointed by the United Nations as an ambassador for peace.

# Mowlam casts off the wig and heads back to her natural look

By Nicholas Watt, Political Correspondent

MO MOWLAM has at last cast off the wig and scarf which she has worn since losing her hair after undergoing radiotherapy for a benign tumour 18 months ago.

The Northern Ireland Secretary's short blond hair was on display yesterday as she escorted President Clinton during his visit to the Province. She had first discarded her bandeau in Belfast last Friday for a public engagement and did not wear it in the Commons this Wednesday.

Dr Mowlam's wig had almost become part of political folklore and her candour about her condition became the stuff of anecdote and was

admired on all sides. On one celebrated occasion Dr Mowlam was so irritated by her wig that she removed it during a press briefing for American journalists with the words: "I am going to take my hair off. I don't care about you lot. I'm in a mood."

She said that she had never got used to the wig because when she gestulated it moved. "My real problem is holding onto my wig getting in and out of helicopters."

When her hair started to grow back, the Northern Ireland Secretary replaced the wig with a blue and purple scarf. She had to avoid choosing either orange or green

scarves to avoid giving offence to either the nationalist or Unionist community as she went about her job.

In recent months she started to remove the scarf at home and at work, but waited until this week before removing it in public. When the tumour was diagnosed, Dr Mowlam, then Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, told only a few friends. She coped until stories appeared in the tabloids about her increase in weight which they linked to her decision to give up cigarettes.

Dr Mowlam then made public the fact that she was wearing a wig and had been on a course of steroids.



Dr Mowlam yesterday; in the wig she had to wear; and before treatment caused hair loss

# Seize last chance, pleads Clinton

Continued from page 1

came from David Trimble. Northern Ireland's First Minister. With Mr Clinton sitting behind him he stared down at Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness in the front row and demanded IRA disarmament. "If the so-called war is over I can see no justification for holding on to illegal weapons," he said. "I cannot reconcile seeking positions in Government with a failure to discharge responsibilities under the agreement to dismantle terrorist organisations."

However, Mr Trimble also pledged to work with any genuine democrat and promised "a pluralist parliament for a pluralist people" - a striking inversion of the "Protestant state for a Protestant people" trumpeted by Lord Craigavon, Northern Ireland's first Prime Minister.

Mr Clinton extolled Northern Ireland's

journey "from the deep freeze of despair to the warm sunlight of peace", but carefully avoided the euphoria of his 1995 visit that was punctured by the IRA's Docklands bomb two months later.

He gave warning that Omagh was not the last bomb of the Troubles but "the opening shot of a vicious attack on the peace". He also urged people not to let "the bad habits and brute forces of yesterday break your will for tomorrow's peace". They had to support their leaders, show that the centre could hold, and "prove that the passion for reason and moderation can trump the power of extremes", he said.

Their leaders had to nurture the best in their people by showing the best in themselves. They had to "act in concert not conflict, overcome obstacles not create them, rise above petty disputes not fuel

them... The spirit of reconciliation must be rooted in all you do".

Mr Clinton demanded the decommissioning of "obsolete" weapons and an end to all paramilitary violence, but balanced that with calls for the formation of an executive, police reform and prisoner releases. He praised Mr Adams and Mr Trimble for their courageous moves towards implementing the Good Friday peace accord this week.

Unlike John Major in 1995, Mr Blair accompanied Mr Clinton throughout the day. Without naming Mr Trimble, who faces a Unionist backlash if he proceeds with a meeting with Mr Adams next week, the Prime Minister called for "the courage to move ahead, to take risks, to be prepared even when close supporters criticise, to have the imagination that is the hallmark of true leadership".

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سكزا من الأصل

# Magic touch brings hope to Omagh

The President's confidence that he can always be effective was not misplaced, reports Valerie Grove

NEVER doubt that a President can wreak a transforming magic. The town of Omagh, so recently devastated, became like a holiday centre yesterday. From a clear sky, the sun shone with a fierce brilliance. The last time they had seen such sun, people said, was three Saturdays ago when the bomb exploded. Yesterday that happening was hard to believe, given the tangible air of optimism and hope.

As a dozen United States Air Force helicopters roared overhead, people were still arriving from miles around to "get a peep at the President". They queued obediently to have their bags searched with grim thoroughness by American secret servicemen in threatening black glasses. The scene in Market Street was tranquil — every shop was closed for the day — but even though we could see the boarded up and ruined buildings, the mood was not sombre.

Everyone in the crowd knew someone who had died or been injured, but those most closely bereaved were gathered in the leisure centre, the very building that had become an incident centre on the day of the bomb.

Inside the leisure centre the Blairs and the Clintons were "deeply moved" to meet several hundred relatives of the dead. Mr Clinton's confrontation with the bomb victims was significantly kept private, out of sight of the world's media.

The first person they greeted was a girl with both eyes bandaged, then a boy in a Leeds United shirt with both hands bandaged. The mood inside was sombre to begin with but it lightened as they spoke to more people, who told the leaders to keep going with the peace process. Mr Blair found it "harrowing and inspirational".

There had been some hesitancy among the organisers of the Clinton visit about whether a stop at Omagh would be "appropriate". The President himself decided: "I have to go.

It's what people will expect of me." Perhaps it is his confidence that whatever happens, he can always lend an effective presence. And his confidence was not misplaced yesterday. The people of Omagh — a warm and welcoming community, as they tell you with unaffected pride — were gratified and comforted.

Sean Loughran, a barman who was working a few yards away from the exploding bomb, unequivocally thought it was "magical" that Clinton had come. "After all the commotion and the hurt, the terrible hurt, people here need help. And this is our last hope,

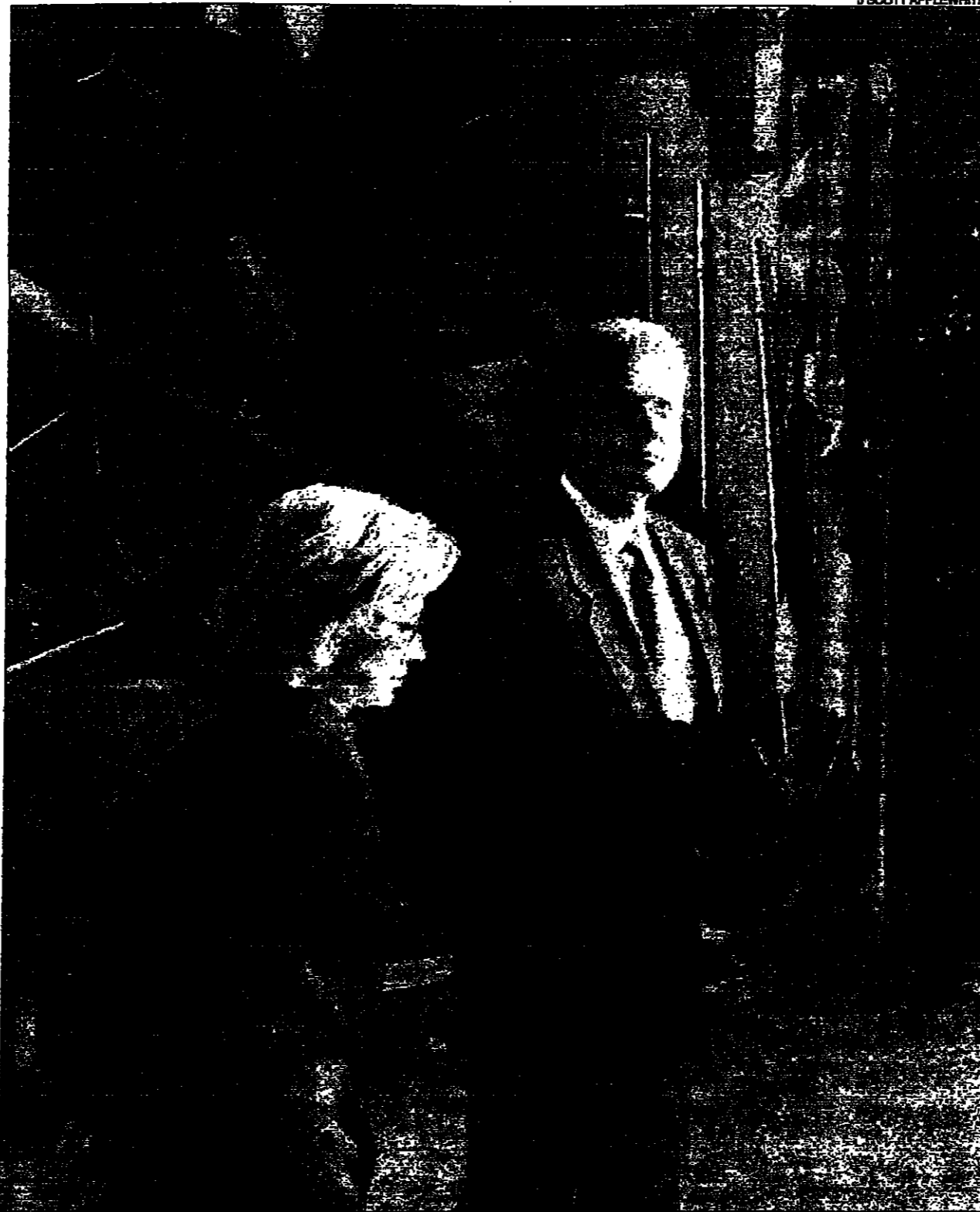
there's no doubt about it." Everyone had a tale to tell. Karenna McFall, a mother of three who lives just round the corner from Market Street, was gardening when the bomb went off. Her first thought was that her mother, Evelyn Gregg, and her daughter Clara,

After all the commotion and the hurt, people here need help. And this is our last hope, no doubt

9, were shopping in Market Street. She and her husband leapt into their Jeep. Failing to find them, they went to the hospital. "I can't describe to you what the fear felt like. I couldn't speak at all for 40 minutes. But we had a happy outcome. I can't stop thinking of all the people we know who lost their families. God's guidance guided us that day," Mrs McFall said.

Aimee Day said: "My neighbour had just got back from holiday. Her husband and son went out to get a few groceries, and she lost them both. Now she says she wishes she'd gone with them."

These women's welcome for the President was quite untinged by any suspicion that he might be milking the situation for his own benefit. "Not at all," said Mrs McFall. "We welcome him because of his involvement with the peace agreement. After all, he was in Belfast a couple of years ago and he promised there would be no more violence. The success of the peace initiative is very much down to Mr Clinton and that is not forgotten by us. So we are pleased that he has not forgotten us and has come to Omagh."



President Clinton and his wife Hillary see some of the shops in Omagh damaged in the August 15 explosion

They especially appreciated the way Mr Clinton had emphasised Gerry Adams's non-violent pledge by repeating it meaningfully in the presence of the entire assembly that morning in Belfast.

When President Clinton arrived in Omagh the local chamber of commerce handed him a long and impassioned letter. "Our minds are not on commerce and trade today, but on those we have lost. But we cannot stand still. We are people of good faith. This is a good country but we are not ashamed to ask for help. . . . So please tell your business leaders of our attractions here."

The people of Northern Ireland are plainly grateful to have the world's eyes focused on them and with staggering resilience they are all trying to see this presidential visit as a final seal on the Troubles. Everyone asks: "Don't you

agree this is a beautiful country? Tell people how green it is. Tell them how peaceful it is."

And it is. On the road from Belfast to Omagh there is a greenness to the well tended countryside and, despite everything, a benign air of peace.

After the President had unveiled a plaque and laid a wreath at the site of the bomb, he and Hillary Clinton and the Blairs moved through surging crowds who jostled to clutch their hands. Who would have thought that these scenes of warmth could have been possible in this stricken town?

CARLOS LOPEZ/AP

## How President forced the pace of change

By Martin Fletcher, Chief Ireland Correspondent

BILL CLINTON may be a lame-duck President at home, but he can still get things done in Northern Ireland.

As he arrived at Belfast's Aldergrove airport yesterday he was handed evidence of how his visit had already injected momentum into the peace process — a newspaper predicting a first face-to-face meeting next week between David Trimble and Gerry Adams, the leaders of Unionism and republicanism.

That meeting would be only the latest of a dizzying sequence of developments over recent days in a province where progress used to be so glacial. On Sunday the IRA, assured that its first prisoners would be released next week, pledged to locate the graves of the "disappeared" — those it spirited away and killed.

On Tuesday, Mr Adams issued his long-awaited statement, declaring not quite that the war was over, but that the violence of the past 30 years must be "a thing of the past — over, done with and gone". His words were exactly those that Tony Blair had used a few months earlier.

Wednesday saw another advance: Sinn Fein's appointment of Martin McGuinness as its representative to the international disarmament commission.

These advances were not entirely due to American intervention. The Omagh bomb reinforced the peace-makers' determination to advance the political alternative to such violence.

Nor were the Americans the only players in the intense behind-the-scenes efforts to surmount the disarmament issue so Sinn Fein could join Northern Ireland's new government. Sources said one crucial factor was the increasingly

strong rapport between Mr Blair and Mr Adams. Dublin also played its part.

But it was the President's looming visit that forced the pace. American debts that were called in, and America's assurances that may ultimately have persuaded Sinn Fein at least to take the steps it has.

The problem that has dogged the peace process is the total lack of trust between the Unionists and Sinn Fein or, as Senator George Mitchell, the man who chaired the peace talks, put it, the actual "presumption of bad faith".

In the run-up to the President's visit, the Americans, British and Irish shuttled between the two sides, exploring whether the Unionists would do this if Sinn Fein did that, and vice-versa. They thus constructed the choreographed sequence of events that is still unfolding.

Despite the fine words it remains unclear whether that sequence will secure Sinn Fein's place in the executive later this year. Mr Trimble used his speech before President Clinton at the Waterfront Hall yesterday to welcome recent developments but also to emphasise that he still expects actual decommissioning.



Trimble: may meet Adams next week



Cherie Blair and Hillary Clinton with children from local primary schools in Lagan Meadows, Belfast

## First ladies charm the young with enthusiastic double act

IT WAS a huggy, feely sort of morning in Belfast when Hillary Clinton and Cherie Blair performed a double act in the city's most charming area of common land, the steeply undulating Lagan Meadows, to lend their voices to a campaign for safe play areas for Northern Ireland's children.

Here the two first ladies, in their contrasting trouser suits — the brunette in grey, the blonde in black — did what they are both good at: endearing mothers and children. Whenever the two meet, Cherie told the small gathering, she and Hillary invariably talk about children.

In their smart uniforms, children from two local schools — the Protestant Straumillis Primary School and the Catholic St Bride's — and the Catholic hundreds of balloons and clustered round

Valerie Grove sees the leaders' wives in winning form as they join a campaign for safe play areas

Hillary and Cherie for autographs. When an officious aide said there was no time, Hillary shooed him aside: "Sure we have time," she said, and proceeded to sign as she walked up the hill, pausing to hug nine-year-old John Donaghy on the way.

Despite the cordon of secret service men in the suburban roads near by, Mary Bleasie, a Belfast psychologist, just happened to be out walking in Lagan Meadows and was astonished to find herself asked the way to the loo by Cherie Blair.

There were bear hugs from both women for Antoinette

McKeown, chief executive of the pressure group PlayBoard, who was moved to tears by the first ladies' display of enthusiasm for her cause. With the aid of Hillary's similar initiative named "KABOOM!", PlayBoard is trying to have the Lagan Meadows designated an environmental play area which will be designed and organised by the children themselves.

"We have provided no role models for our children in the last 30 years except shooting and killing," Ms McKeown said. "They have lost their traditions of play-

ing in our concrete cities. Children are the most adversely affected victims of the Troubles. They represent our future and play has a crucial role in the healing process."

While the VIPs of Belfast and visiting dignitaries were gathering to hear President Clinton's address, the mothers of Belfast saw far more significance in seeing Hillary and Cherie supporting them and their children in whose hands the reality of the future lies. As Hillary constantly reminded her audience, it is women who pushed forward the peace process, women whose lives have been blighted by the prospect of burying their children.

"And as my good friend Madeline Albright says, advancing the cause of women is not just the right thing to do, it's the smart thing to do for any society."

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GPs urged to reduce reliance on antibiotics

Overprescription is behind rise in 'superbugs', says Alexandra Freen

PEOPLE suffering from colds, coughs or sore throats should no longer be able to obtain antibiotic treatments on demand from their GPs, government advisers said yesterday. The recommendation, in a report by the Standing Medical Advisory Committee, is part of an attempt to suppress the emergence of "superbugs" - bacteria immune to antibiotics - that threaten eventually to make diseases such as meningitis and tuberculosis untreatable. Many GPs and patients have come to regard antibiotics as "quick fixes" for virtually any infection, even those caused by viruses, which are not susceptible to them. An estimated 50 million prescriptions for antibiotics are dispensed in England each year, of which up to 18 million may be ineffective. The committee also recommends that the prescribing of antibiotics for cystitis be limited to three days and that telephone prescriptions for the drugs be severely curtailed. Diana Walford, one of the report's authors, said that the overprescription of antibiotics was threatening doctors' ability to treat serious illnesses as bacteria and antimicrobial agents became resistant to them. "The more we use them, the more we lose them."



Tessa Jowell, the Public Health Minister, speaking at a press conference at the Department of Health yesterday

GPs' surgeries and hospitals. It also calls for a public education campaign to teach people to "cherish and conserve their normal bacterial flora" and to educate them about when antibiotics are really needed. It says infection control in hospitals and medical practices needs to be tightened, and calls for a national strategy for resistance surveillance, to track the emergence of new "superbugs". Judith Gilley, joint deputy chair of the British Medical

Association's GP committee, said that GPs and community practitioners, who prescribe 80 per cent of antibiotics, were under enormous pressure from patients, particularly from students before exams, to prescribe the drugs. While antibiotics were still necessary for the treatment of some conditions, such as urinary tract infections in children and pelvic infections in women, GPs needed to be firmer in their resolve only to prescribe them appropriately, she said. Sir Kenneth Calman, the

Chief Medical Officer, added that parents should not hesitate to take their children to the doctor in situations where immediate antibiotic treatment might be life-saving. Where antibiotics were prescribed, people should not be deterred from taking the full course. Both the British Medical Association and the Royal College of General Practitioners said they supported the recommendations, which are to be sent to all doctors. The report follows the publication in April of a warning from the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee that the world was in danger of slipping back to the pre-antibiotic era of untreatable disease unless urgent action was taken to reduce the overuse and misuse of antibiotics.

Tessa Jowell, the Minister for Public Health, said that it was a worldwide problem that needed to be tackled on the international stage by organisations such as the European Union.

Drink and drugs are part of life for young doctors

By IAN MURRAY MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

MOST junior hospital doctors drink too much alcohol and many use cannabis or other drugs, according to a report. Stress, anxiety and mental ill-health are also common.

A survey among house officers a year after qualification found that about 60 per cent drank above the recommended weekly limits - 21 units for men and 14 units for women. Average consumption had increased in every case since the same people were surveyed as second-year students four or five years earlier. The report in The Lancet today says that 11 per cent of the men and 12 per cent of the women drink a "hazardous" level - at least two and a half times above that recommended. About a quarter indulge in binge drinking, consuming at least half a safe weekly amount in one session, with the women slightly more prone to do this than the men. More than 35 per cent of the men and 19 per cent of the women were using cannabis, more than 11 per cent regularly. A further 13 per cent of the men and 10 per cent of the women were using magic mushrooms, LSD, Ecstasy, cocaine or amphetamines. The vast majority of the 90 newly qualified doctors at 18 hospitals in the North East of England said they drank or took drugs for pleasure. They had been surveyed during the second year of training and pressure of work did not appear to be a factor. Another questionnaire on general health found that 45 per cent of the women and 21 per cent of the men were showing so much stress that they were possibly suffering from pathological anxiety. However, the researchers, from the Wolfson Unit of Clinical Pharmacology at the University of Newcastle, say high scores for anxiety and mental health were related to work pressures and unrelated to the use of alcohol or illicit drugs. "The current drinking habits, illicit drug use, and stress in some junior doctors is of concern, not only for their well-being, but also how they may affect patient care."

Radiation dose 'can be focused on cancer'

By IAN MURRAY MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A HIGHLY accurate radiotherapy treatment for prostate cancer can eradicate the disease in up to nine out of ten cases, a specialist said yesterday. Trials are now under way to find out if the new method will improve the long-term survival rates for the 15,000 men who are diagnosed with the disease each year.

David Dearnley, of the Institute of Cancer Research, has been leading the development of the new technique, known as conformal radiotherapy. He told a conference on prostate cancer at the Royal Society of Medicine in London that it involved building a three-dimensional picture of the diseased part of the prostate gland with the help of scanning and imaging. "It is then possible to shape the dose of radiotherapy precisely around the target area, without radiating the normal tissues," he said. "This means we can reduce serious side-effects like rectal bleeding that limit the dose you can give."

A recent survey by the British Medical Association estimated that more than 9,000 doctors in Britain - approximately one in 15 - needed help for addiction. The Academy of Royal Colleges recommended that NHS managers should have the right to impose random testing for drink and drugs. Andrew Hobart, deputy chairman of the BMA's junior doctors committee, said research showed that long periods without sleep were even more harmful to performance than drinking moderate amounts of alcohol.

Court-martial cases head for Euro court

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THIRTY-SIX new challenges to the legality of the court martial system are being brought before European human rights judges in Strasbourg. The cases follow two rulings last year that court martial procedures in the Armed Forces are a breach of the European Convention on Human Rights. Now 36 men and women serving or formerly serving in the Forces are hoping that similar findings will include substantial compensation awards against the Ministry of Defence.

The Government says it will not contest new rulings that there have been human rights violations, but wants a decision on what compensation "if any" should go to the applicants. The Government's hope is that the judges will deliver the same verdict as before: that they cannot compensate for lost income because the applicants might have been court-martialled even if procedures had been carried out in line with the European convention. A test case by Alex Findlay, a Falklands veteran, last year paved the way for the latest legal actions. He successfully claimed that his army court-martial procedures breached the con-

vention, which guarantees the right to a fair trial before an "independent and impartial tribunal". Months later a similar claim made by Paul Coyne, an RAF non-commissioned officer, also led to a unanimous ruling that a court martial convened under the 1955 Army Act "did not meet the requirements of independence and impartiality set by the convention". Both men's human rights claims were based on differences between courts martial and civilian criminal court procedures. Servicemen and women facing trial within the Forces cannot elect trial by jury and the appeals procedure is less comprehensive. But the key difference was the role of the "convening officer", who sets up the court when a case is heard and appoints its members from among his own subordinate officers serving in units under his command. Since the cases were brought, the Ministry of Defence has introduced reforms to the system. It has abolished the role of the convening officer, although the courts martial system is still accused of providing fewer safeguards for defendants than in civilian criminal courts.

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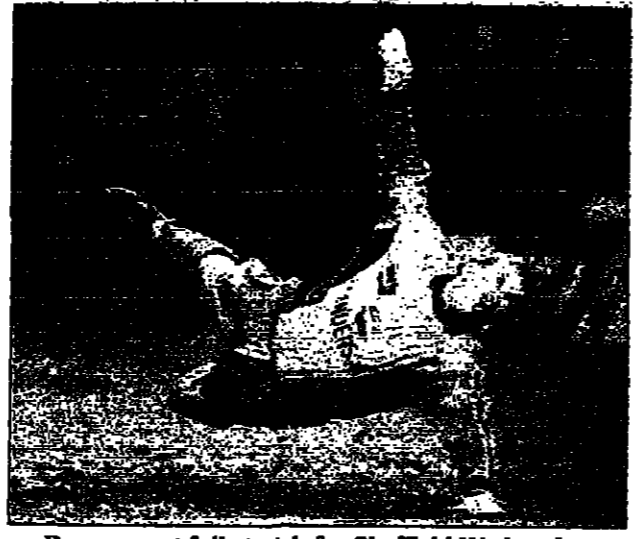
سكزا من الأهل

# Goalkeeper holds on to thief after 15-mile chase

Player gave police cars a running commentary, writes Adam Fresco

THE Premiership goalkeeper Kevin Pressman chased and caught a car thief who stole his £30,000 Mercedes after a 15-mile dawn chase along country roads yesterday.

were sent to join the chase, but the officers felt it was not safe to travel at such high speeds and lost the thief.



Pressman at full stretch for Sheffield Wednesday

Undeterred, Pressman — not the league's most svelte performer — gave chase for a mile and a half across the field before grabbing him and holding him until the police arrived half an hour after he began the chase.



Kevin Pressman back at home yesterday with the mobile phone he used in the chase

## Pantomime rivals prepare to stage courtroom drama

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

RIVAL troupes of amateur actors are threatening to take legal action after accusations that each has stolen the other's name.

the members of the company who were in last year's pantomime have left the association.

### CORRECTIONS

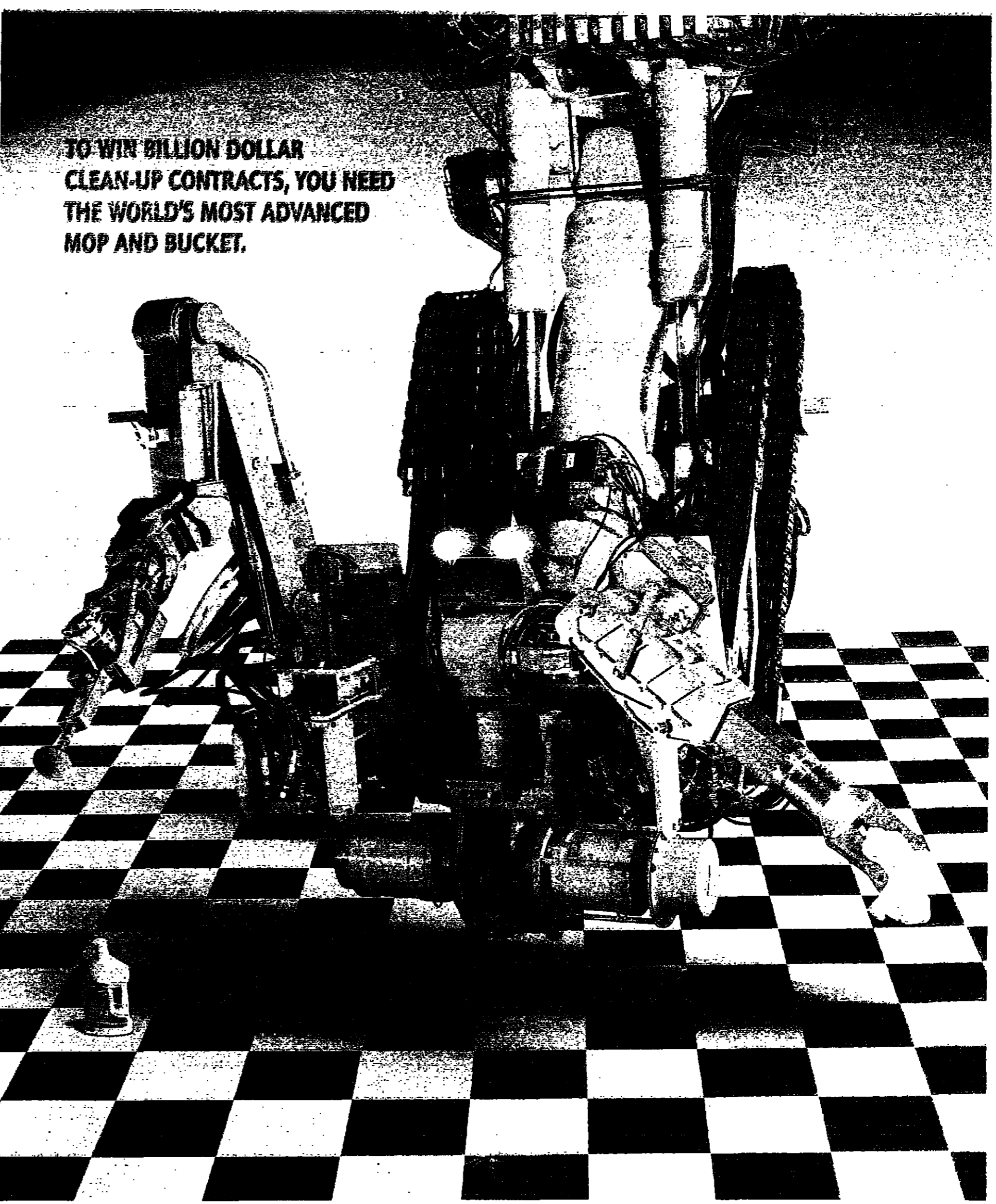
Samuelson Productions have asked us to make clear that their film about Winston Churchill during the early part of the Second World War (Diary, July 27) will be a balanced political and domestic portrait of the man and The Finest Hour.

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Drink and drugs are part of life for young doctors

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Drink and drugs are part of life for young doctors

# The portrait of a lady that brought old foes together

**THE son of the woman who fought a long and unsuccessful court battle against the Thatcher Government for prescribing the pill to under-age teenagers without parental knowledge has painted the former Prime Minister's portrait.**

**Adrian Lee on a new painting of Baroness Thatcher by the artist son of Victoria Gillick**

Baroness Thatcher is delighted with the result. "She looks quite a formidable woman," she said of the painting. "Can I thank the artist for doing the impossible - a portrait of me in a way I would like to be remembered."

The artist, James Gillick, 26, is the son of the morality campaigner Victoria Gillick, who works as a counsellor for the anti-abortion organisation Life, and Gordon Gillick, a graphic artist.

Lady Thatcher, 72, who sat for three sessions, lasting almost eight hours, had been a model subject, the artist said. She watched Teletext, read avidly from a chemistry magazine and chatted about a range of subjects. Only one was off-limits - the old battle with his mother. Lady Thatcher was aware of the family link and a degree of tact was required. "The conversation was steered away from that sort of thing," he said.

Lady Thatcher had had initial misgivings about the portrait. During the sittings, she worried that the portrait might make her appear fierce. Gillick told her she was fierce and nothing more was said.

The oil-on-canvas portrait, commissioned by Buckingham University to mark the

end of Lady Thatcher's six-year Chancellorship, depicts her in a blue and gold robe, seated in front of a background of red drapes. She wears a pearl necklace and clutches a piece of paper.

The sittings were conducted at her office in Belgraveia, Gillick - who describes himself as a political neutral - said that Lady Thatcher had sat very still. Only once did she appear agitated - when she learnt of Labour's Budget from Teletext and frowned out of the room in high dudgeon.

In calmer moments Lady Thatcher, a chemistry graduate, read *Chemistry Today*. She confided in the artist that she enjoyed her lecture tours abroad, but disliked entertaining at home.

The university declined to disclose the cost of the portrait. It is quite a coup for such a young artist, whose early memories include painting competitions set by his father. Gillick, one of ten children, said: "There was never any

question of me doing anything else." In the 1990s, when his forthright mother appeared regularly on television, he was bullied at school. But, he said yesterday, a solid family background had helped nurture his artistic talent.

His brother Ben, 30, who framed the portrait, agreed. "Our parents encouraged us to think freely. My mother's views were nothing to do with us - we were only children then. Although there were ten of us, we never lacked attention."

Mrs Gillick, 50, of Wisbeck, Cambridgeshire, said she was proud of the achievements of all her children. "I have been criticised in the past for having so many children, but I have always felt the joy of having such a large family was watching them grow up in so many varied ways."

It was no surprise that James became an artist. In the Gillick household, television was banned and the children played with wood and clay instead of Lego.

Gordon Gillick said: "The children were condemned to this sort of career. We always had paint, and basic materials around the house so they could be creative. I would never have spoken to them again if they had become accountants."

His artist son said that he had relished the challenge of capturing the "likeness of an icon". He had found Lady Thatcher charming but "when she looks you in the eye it's like looking at two Exocet missiles."



James Gillick and Baroness Thatcher at the unveiling of his portrait of her yesterday. She thanked him for painting her as a formidable woman



### ARTISTIC STREAK RUNS THROUGH ALL TEN CHILDREN

IN A family where father was a graphic artist and mother an artist turned morality campaigner, it was almost inevitable that the ten Gillick brothers and sisters should choose creative careers.

Ben, 30, the oldest, who in 1987 was convicted of possessing a knife, is a furniture designer and builder who works for the National Trust. He makes the frames for his brother James's pictures.

Beattie, 28, who caused consternation to her mother when she was photographed by a tabloid newspaper while sunbathing topless in Greece 12 years ago, is now married

and a writer of children's books. Hannah, 27, who had a child outside marriage, is an interior designer currently working in London's Docklands on a new restaurant.

James, 26, who painted Baroness Thatcher, studied landscape architecture at Cheltenham and Gloucester College but turned to painting five years ago. He is married and lives in Buckingham. His twin, Theodore, studied genetic biology in Aberdeen but forsook a career in science to study sculpture in Bath.

Jessie, 23, is married with three children and adds to her family's income by drawing portraits of other people's children. Gabriel, 21, has followed in the footsteps of his father, Gordon, by becoming a theatre set designer. He is currently working on designs for a new musical about the life of Picasso.

Sarah, 20, lives in Witney, Oxfordshire, where she is a graphic designer who illustrates books, including those by her sister Beattie.

Ambrose, 19, is working at a pea-processing factory to pay his way to Manchester University, where he intends to study architecture. Clementine, 16, the youngest, is studying for her A levels and hopes to follow a career in music.

## McCartney releases Linda's songs



**By CLAUDIA JOSEPH**

A COLLECTION of songs written and recorded by Linda McCartney is being released on CD by her husband as a tribute to her after she died from cancer in April.

Lady McCartney, who played keyboards in her husband's band, Wings, composed 13 of the 16 solo songs on the album *Wide Prairie*

over three decades and recorded the final tracks in the months before her death.

Sir Paul produced the CD, on which he sings the harmonies and their son, James, plays the guitar. It will be released at the end of October.

Geoff Baker, a close friend and spokesman for the family, said: "This is one of the things that Linda wanted to do and I think she would have

## Old Lennon tracks rediscovered

DOZENS of previously unheard tracks by John Lennon are to be released after being discovered in the vaults of Capitol Records in America.

The recordings will be issued in a four-CD boxed set on November 3, according to *Billboard* music magazine. It will reportedly be called *The John Lennon Anthology*.

Phil Cappell, a Beatles tour guide, said reports that Yoko Ono, the singer's widow, was serving as executive producer for the set and that the couple's son, Sean,

would have a creative input might be greeted with scepticism. "Some people are going to question whether Yoko is just trying to push her son. For many people, the jury is still out about Sean Lennon's musical ability," he said.

Three years ago an unfinished home recording of Lennon's *Free As A Bird* became an instant hit when it was released after the surviving Beatles completed it.

Stephen Bailey, manager of the Beatles Shop near the site of the Cavern Club

where the group first made its name, said he was sure his store would sell out of the tracks as soon as they stocked the shelves.

"Some of these things, by their very nature, are rough-sounding," he said. "They were recorded at home on primitive equipment - basically a man sat at home with his guitar and his piano and a tape recorder having a good time." That quality, plus the chance to hear previously unrecorded material, would make the planned anthology a hit with fans, he added.

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# Europe's ski resorts are going downhill

The British are heading west as crowded Alpine slopes lose their charm, writes

Joanna Bale

MORE Britons are heading for North American ski resorts because European centres suffer from complacency and under-investment, according to a Consumers' Association guide published yesterday.

Most resorts on the Continent have failed to meet the needs of visitors, with overcrowding, rising prices and lack of courtesy topping the list of complaints, the guide says. The number of skiers crossing the Atlantic has risen tenfold, because skiers are "no longer prepared to pay high prices for second-rate service". Even Swiss and Austrians are forsaking their own slopes to head west.

Canadian and US resorts attract about 65,000 British skiers — more than 20 per cent of the British ski market. Eight years ago, they accounted for only about 3 per cent. Traditionally, flying to destinations in the American Rockies has been difficult, involving up to three changes of aircraft. However, a daily scheduled British Airways service to Denver has just been introduced, complementing



European resorts, such as Verbier, suffer from under-investment, says the guide

the existing tour operators' weekly charter service.

The favourable exchange rate of the pound against the Canadian dollar and, to a lesser extent the American dollar, means that tour operators can offer holidays there at prices competitive with European destinations.

The average North American ski resort will offer a smaller ski area than many

European destinations but slopes are less crowded, snow conditions more reliable and lift systems superior. Those who still favour European resorts do so because off-piste skiing in the European sense does not exist in North America. While a few big resorts allow large areas to be left untouched by machines, leaving the designated ski area is forbidden. Breaking the rules

can result in confiscation of ski passes and even arrest.

Leading destinations, such as Verbier, in Switzerland, and Kitzbühel, in Austria, are "paupers" in comparison to leading American resorts. *The Good Skiing and Snowboarding Guide 1999*, from Which? Books, concludes.

While billions of dollars are being invested in upgrading North American resorts such

## UPS AND DOWNS

**VERBIER:**  
**Good points:**  
 Easy rail and road access  
 Wealth of off-piste  
 Excellent sunshine record  
 Summer glacier skiing  
**Bad points:**  
 Queues and overcrowding  
 High prices for après-ski  
 Minimal hotel accommodation  
 Inadequate mountain restaurants  
 Traffic and difficult parking

**BANFF** (the most popular destination in North America for British skiers)  
**Good points:**  
 Spectacular scenery  
 Reliable snow record  
 Long skiing season  
 Extensive children's facilities  
 Few queues  
**Bad points:**  
 Strung-out resorts  
 Extremely low temperatures  
 Lack of slope-side lodging

as Vail, Creek, Breckenridge and Keystone, Verbier has yet to replace an antiquated cable-car system at a cost of £5 million. In the Italian resort of Cervinia, cable cars that were closed for safety reason five years ago have yet to be replaced.

The guide's editors, Peter Hardy and Felice Eyston, said yesterday: "The simple truth is that North America offers



Banff, in the Canadian Rockies, offers wide open spaces, hospitality and good snow

better value for money. The lift systems are superior, there is more space on the slopes and in the hotels — and the way visitors are welcomed is incomparable.

"The Americans are not just keeping up with the needs of today's skiers and snowboarders, but are anticipating them. Combine that with favourable exchange rates and package prices and you have a

winning formula. Europe is no longer competing."

Mr Hardy added: "The question is: would holiday-makers rather pay £5 for a bowl of cold chips in the Trois Vallées, or for a sumptuous hot buffet in Lake Louise?"

It is not just Britons making the journey. Mr Hardy added: "The Swiss and the Austrians, in particular, are beginning to head across the

Atlantic in large numbers, along with Dutch and Germans, instead of using resorts on their own doorsteps."

The British skiing exodus to North America is part of the growing popularity of the US as a holiday destination in general. The latest figures show that in 1995 2.5 million Britons visited the US for holidays, compared with 1.8 million in 1980.

## Viewers to be asked: do you want News at Ten?

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

VIEWERS are to be consulted on ITV's plans to replace *News at Ten* with a main evening news at 6.30pm.

The Independent Television Commission, the regulatory body that will decide the fate of the programme, said yesterday that it wanted to hear viewers' opinions. The commission is also conducting independent audience research to make sure that it hears from a wide range of people.

A previous attempt to move the programme was opposed by John Major, then Prime Minister. This time Tony Blair is among those who have said that *News at Ten* should stay where it is.

The ITC said yesterday that its approval was not usually necessary for ITV schedule changes. But in this case the commission has a legal responsibility under broadcasting legislation to ensure that

ITV carries high-quality national and international news at intervals throughout the day, and during peak viewing — from 6pm to 10.30pm — by all the companies simultaneously. In their 1991 licence applications, eight of the regional licence holders said that they planned to broadcast the main news at 10pm.

Sarah Thane, the ITC director of programmes and cable, said yesterday: "We want to know what viewers think of these proposed changes in news provision, including regional programmes, and the introduction of a wider range of programmes in the 9-11pm period."

The commission, which hopes to rule on *News at Ten* by the end of November, promises that the opinion of viewers will be one of a range of factors taken into account. The ITC is about to disappoint those who want to see

the early closure of existing analogue broadcasting transmission in favour of digital. The Government would like to aim for a switch-off in ten years so that broadcasting frequencies can be auctioned off for other more lucrative use, such as mobile telephone communications. For that to happen everyone will have to have digital equipment to be able to continue receiving television signals.

The ITC plans to tell the Government that the transition could take longer than 15 years. Viewers will have to replace not just the main household television set but all their additional sets and video recorders as well.

The Culture, Media and Sport department began a consultation process on the issue of the switch-off earlier this year.

Matthew Parris, page 20

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Handwritten note at the bottom: 50 من الاصل



# Old Newcastle swept away by steam age

By PAUL WILKINSON

THOMAS Richardson's idyllic view across the Tyne to the chimneys and garrets of old Newcastle, tumbling down its steep valley from the castle, owes more to artistic licence than to architectural accuracy. Experts at the Laing Gallery in the city, where the picture now hangs, believe it was not executed on the spot but worked on over a number of weeks in Richardson's studio from a series of sketches drawn along the river.

Painted soon after the turn of the 18th century, it depicts a scene that was about to give way to the 19th-century view an observer would find today. It is undated, but, by simple examination of local records, it can be fairly accurately placed at 1810.

The crenellations visible on the turrets of the 12th-century Norman keep were added in 1809 at the same time that the old fortification was given a roof. Those "improvements" coincided with an upsurge in intellectual interest in "antiquities" and the purchase of the castle by the city council, inconspicuously, to preserve it. Little else of the Conqueror's New Castle on the site of Hadrian's Roman fort has survived the arrival of the railway age at the Central station less than 200 yards away, although shreds of curtain wall do appear elsewhere in the city.

In the distance behind the keep is the distinctive crown cupola of St Nicholas's Church, a style that became a



The Times continues its series on how scenes by great British artists have changed

No 11: Thomas Richardson Sr Newcastle from the Tyne 1810

model for many other tower tops around the country. When Richardson did his painting it was just a parish church, but since the 1880s it has been the cathedral see of the Bishop of Newcastle.

Nothing remains today of the scramble of Richardson's waterside rooflines, even though some of the medieval buildings out of sight behind them still survive as the heart of a thriving night scene. So do the famous Newcastle Chares, narrow flights of granite steps, lacing through what was once a huggenugger dockside community up the valley side to the city beyond.

In Richardson's day the area was beginning to decline from a smart business and residential one to a less salubrious dockland maelstrom. What had been home to the merchant and professional classes who made their living from the river and lived "over the shop" was becoming a

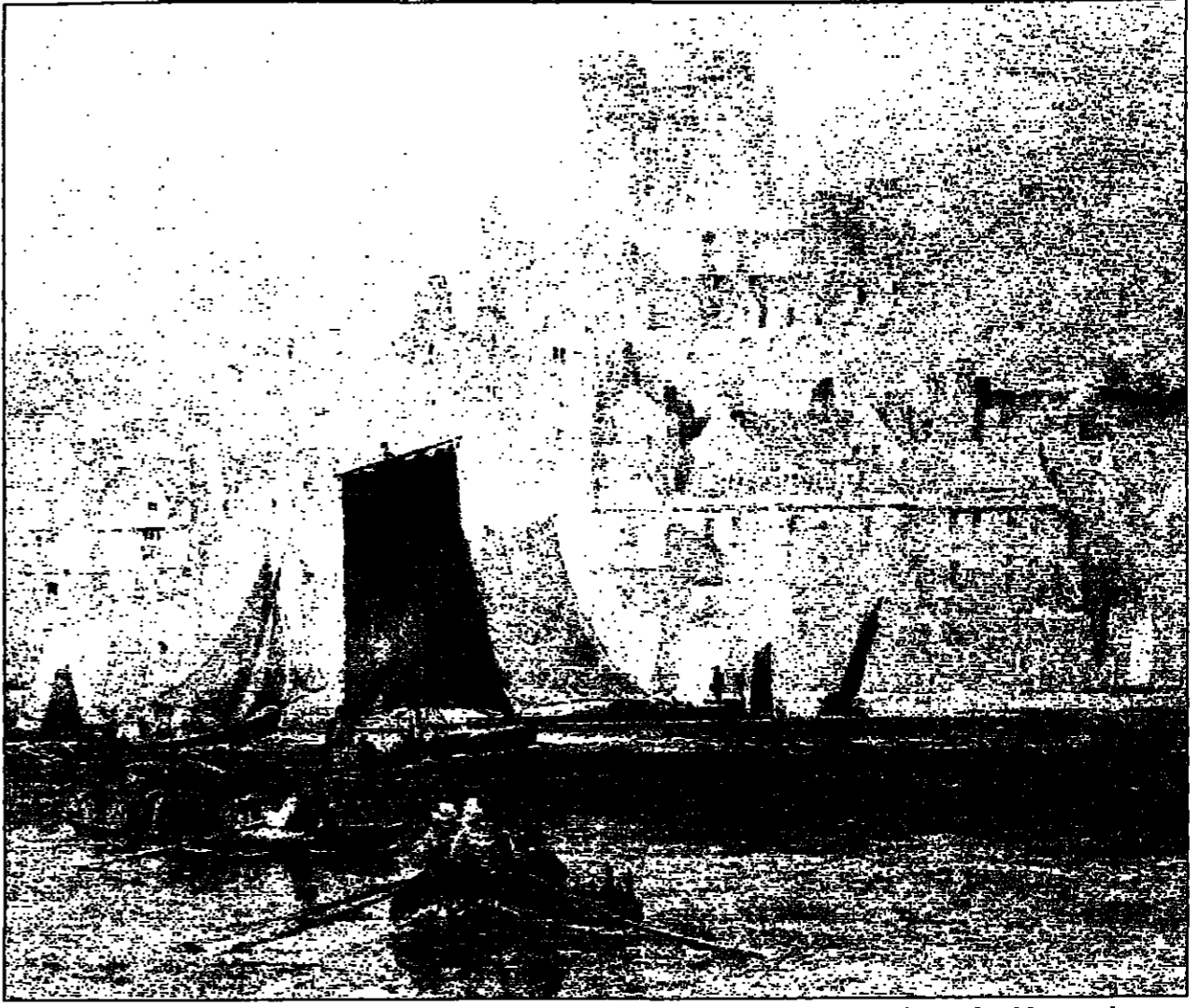
warren of tenements. Many of the houses dated from the late medieval period and some in the 18th century had been given stone facades on the original timber frontage. But by the time Richardson set up his easel, many of the moneyed classes were moving out of the noisy and congested dockside to fashionable neo-classical terraces being built to the north of the city. Some quayside houses made way in 1880 for the fish market, a single-storey, seven-

bayed Baroque-style building now reinvented as Neptune House, home to "sunrise" industries such as architecture and design.

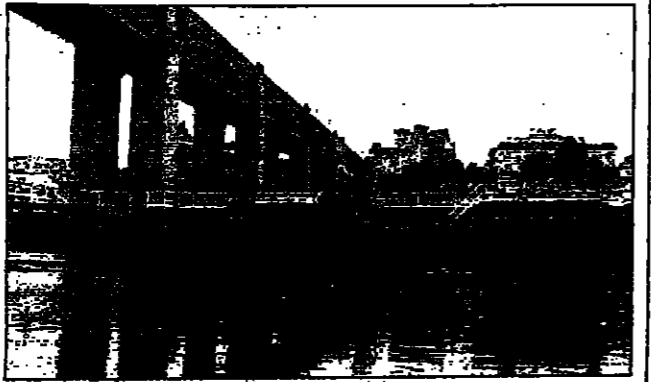
By then the multistoried building with three chimney-topped gable ends in Richardson's picture, below and to the left of the castle, had already gone. It was replaced in 1845 by the northern abutment of the High Level bridge on the left of the photograph as the industrial age steamed stoutly into Tyneside.

The design, by Robert Stephenson, was picked from 19 proposals, including one from Brunel, to fulfil the need for a high-level approach from the south to the new station of the Newcastle and Berwick railway on the high ground above the river valley. It stands 120ft above the low-water mark.

Richardson's view is taken from where the bridge's southern end now stands. Apart from some strengthening in the 1920s to sustain the weight of trams on the road, it is as designed by Stephenson 150 years ago.



Little survives today from the 1810 painting by Thomas Richardson, Senior, except the castle's Norman keep



The High Level bridge now dominates the view

## Atlantic blast to banish summer

By MARK HENDERSON

BRITAIN will feel the first blast of autumn this weekend as the remnants of hurricane Danielle bring high winds and rain to many parts of the country.

Gales and heavy rain are expected in western and northern areas on Saturday and Sunday as the weather system reaches the British Isles across the Atlantic, and most of the country is likely to see an end to what little warm and dry weather it has enjoyed over the summer.

The arrival of the Danielle system follows the remnants of hurricane Bonnie, which contributed to more than an inch of rain across central and southern England in the early hours of yesterday. The weather today is expected to remain relatively dry as we enjoy a lull between the two depressions.

Martin Rowley, a Met Office forecaster, said we would start to feel seasonal changes in the weather from this weekend. "We will be waving goodbye to what has passed for a summer," he said. "The West and the North, which have had pretty poor weather throughout the summer, are certainly going to see gales, and while eastern areas might escape the worst of it and have a dry Saturday, the weather on Sunday is going to be pretty windy all over."

He said strong winds would be matched by "heavy and persistent rain" in many parts of the country, though it was too early to say with precision which areas would be worst affected.

Forecast, page 26

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### RAF pilot escapes jet crash

The pilot of a Jaguar fighter bomber ejected to safety as his aircraft crashed into the North Sea during a low-level practice flight from RAF Leconfield. He spent 40 minutes in the water 13 miles off Cromer, Norfolk, before being rescued by a helicopter crew. The Ministry of Defence said the cause of the accident was not yet known.

### Boy, 11, drowns

Nathan Ford Fennah, 11, of Hawarden, Flintshire, drowned at the Northgate Arena leisure centre in Chester on Wednesday despite efforts by a lifeguard and paramedics to save him. It was the last day of his school holiday.

### Car deaths

A young mother is believed to have gassed her two children and herself in the family car after a row with her estranged husband. The three, from Reading, were found in woods near Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

### Big top stolen

Thieves stole a £70,000 big top and other equipment from a van after the Sheffield Swamp Circus — one of Britain's few non-animal touring companies — had finished a run of shows at Heaton Park in Manchester.

### Eye for a bargain

A collection of 81 glass eyes has been sold for £400. "They are incredibly detailed," Roger Tappin, the auctioneer at Phillips in Par, Cornwall, said. "Some are even slightly bloodshot for that 'morning after the night before' look."

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# Gene crops are food of future, say scientists

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

GENETICALLY modified crops have the potential to feed the world's booming populations of the 21st century and their development should be encouraged, the Royal Society said yesterday.

Strains genetically engineered to produce bumper yields or to grow on salty or other marginal soils, are all possible in the coming years.

Sir Aaron Klug, President of the Royal Society, said yesterday that such plant breeding technology offered hope for feeding the eight billion people likely to be alive in 2020. It would also help the environment and wildlife by reducing the need to destroy rainforests or to drain wetlands for farmland.

Some groups including environmental organisations have called for a moratorium on the cultivating of gene-altered crops to allow for further research. They fear that such plants may harm beneficial insects and may cross with wild living relatives to produce "super weeds".

There are also concerns over the health of consumers.

But the Royal Society working group, in advice to ministers, argues that the risks are being overplayed. It adds that unilateral action by the British Government would be folly as genetic engineering is now worldwide. Banning or stalling the cultivation of crops which have been approved in other countries would probably put Britain in breach of World Trade Organisation rules, the scientists say.

Critics have expressed concern that the technology will be in the hands of a few western multinationals who could force the Third World to pay high prices. But Dr Mike Gale of the John Innes Centre in Norwich, which carries out research into gene-modified plants, said yesterday that the centre had students from developing countries studying genetic engineering. They were taking the technology back to their own countries. Sir Aaron said: "Although

the debate surrounding genetically modified organisms has focused mainly upon the risks of this technology, we must not lose sight of its huge potential benefits.

"Just as the food requirements of today's population of nearly six billion could not have been met by the technologies of the 1940s, we cannot assume that current practices will feed the population of eight billion expected by 2020. New approaches are needed in addition to the continued improvement of existing methods of crop and animal husbandry and food processing," he said.

The Royal Society nevertheless has made a string of recommendations to ensure the development of such crops is well policed.

It is calling for an independent regulatory body to supervise and monitor the enforcement of regulations covering the growing of such crops. It would also be responsible for wider issues such as trade and labelling.

## WHAT MAKES WORM A PARTY ANIMAL

The difference between being a shy, retiring wallflower or a chatty party animal may be down to a single gene. Scientists studying roundworms have found a genetic difference between those that dine alone and those that feed in sociable groups. It is hoped the findings may help to shed light on the development of innate behaviours, particularly social ones, in animals and man. The research, published in *Cell*, has been carried out by a team at the University of California San Francisco. The genetic difference was found to be a single amino acid on a gene called neuropeptide Y. Once modified, a solitary worm became chummy with its fellows.



Mike Oldfield rehearsing at Horse Guards Parade yesterday. *Tubular Bells III* has its premiere there tonight

## Modern music invades the parade ground

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

ONE of the traditional venues for state occasions will be rocked tonight as Horse Guards Parade plays host to its first pop concert (Valerie Elliott writes).

Mike Oldfield is to stage the world premiere of *Tubular Bells III* within earshot of Buckingham Palace and with a prime view from Downing Street. The 7,000 ticket outdoor concert was declared almost a sell-out by the organisers, but members of the Royal Family will miss the two-hour extravaganza and the Blairs are expected to be at Chequers.

The timing is, of course, deliberate. Before Simon Petherick, chairman of the company, could arrange the show he had to get permission from the Palace. No 10, the Ministry of Defence and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. They were all keen but cautious about the idea, and Mr Petherick was told: "Do it when everyone is away and Parliament is not sitting."

He had to notify everyone of rehearsals, road closures,

and on no account was the daily ceremony of Changing the Guard to be disturbed.

He also had to consult the august friends of St James's Park, the Thorney Island Society, which banned fireworks. Jane Stubbs, society chairman, said: "We are concerned about the impact on the wildfowl. Birds are very sensitive and we are worried about the noise levels. This is a very special and small park, and is very precious to the people. If concerts are to be more frequent they are going to have to watch the seasons. We don't want anything to disturb egg-laying."

The concert is a trial for the Royal Parks Enterprises company, set up last year to drum up funds for the Royal Parks Agency. If it is successful, Horseguards could become a familiar, regular concert venue, generating thousands of pounds for the royal parks.

But Mr Petherick refused to disclose the price for staging a show on such an historic site. However, events organisers estimated that the staging could cost some £250,000.

## Heaney on stage

A UNIQUE opportunity to hear Seamus Heaney read from *Opened Ground*, his new selection of poems written between 1966 and 1996, is being offered to *Times* readers.

Heaney, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1995, will be reading from his new book at Piccadilly Theatre, London, at 7pm on Sunday. This will be his only public appearance. By presenting a copy of this article, *Times* readers will receive a £5 discount on signed copies of *Opened Ground*, which are selling at £20 in hardback and £12.99 in paperback.

Tickets cost £10 and £12, with proceeds going to Waterstone's charity of the year, The Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture. They can be obtained by ringing 0171



Heaney will read from his new book

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*Opened Ground* includes several new poems as well as work from Heaney's *Seeing Things* and *The Spirit Level*.

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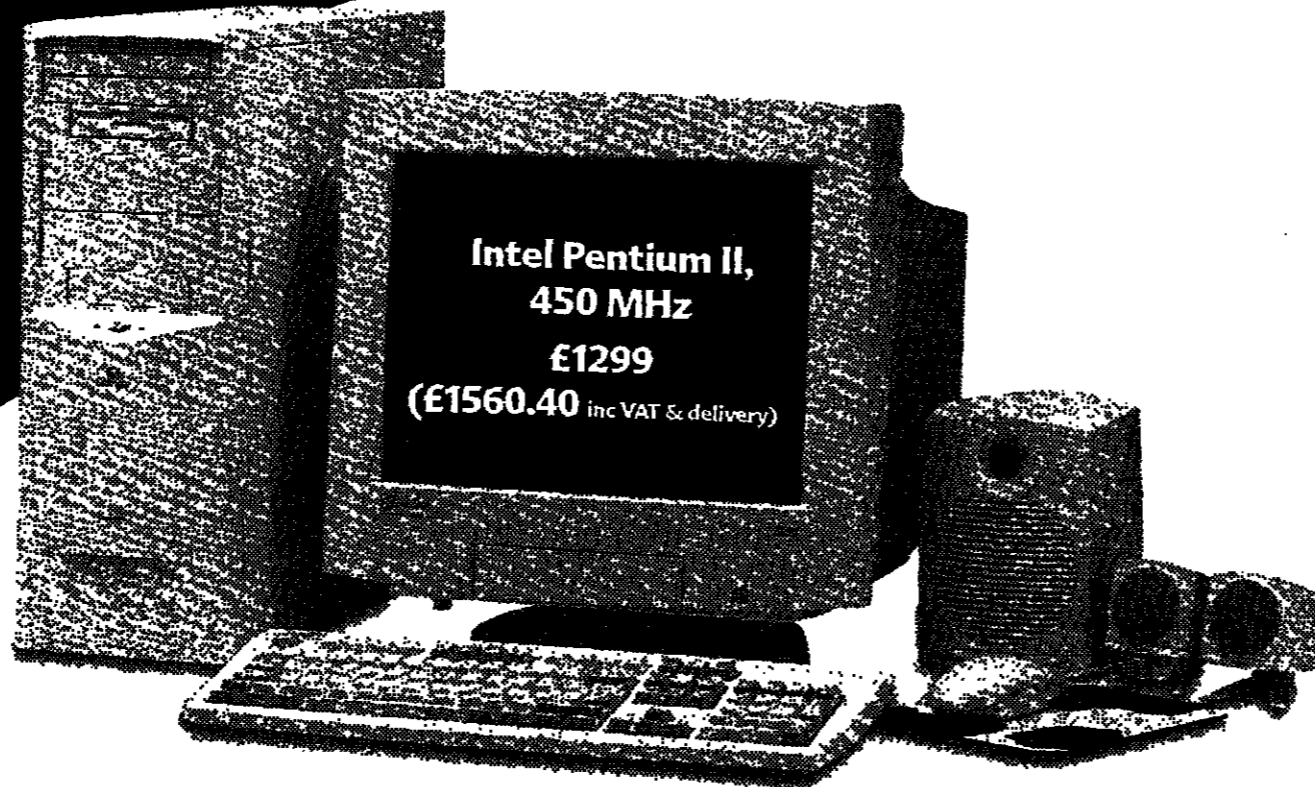
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# Spielberg's gory war film 'repays debt to veterans'

## Director says horrors depicted in his new work are true to veterans' experience, reports Dalya Alberge

STEVEN SPIELBERG said yesterday that he had used scenes of extreme violence in his new film on the Second World War so that it would be true to what his father's generation had been through.

generation had "sacrificed for the freedom that we all enjoy today". Spielberg, 50, whose 1993 film about the rescue of Jews during the Holocaust, *Schindler's List*, won six Oscars, was speaking at the Venice Film Festival, which was opened yesterday by his \$65 million film.

who have all been killed in action. The film has been described as including the most harrowing and gruesomely realistic non-documentary war footage ever shot. The director, whose father served in the war, has given a warning to those who may be disturbed by the film's depictions of carnage not to see it.

The greatest reward in making *Saving Private Ryan*, he said, was in seeing a narrowing of the divide between the war veterans and the "baby-boomers". There was an awareness of what the older

Saving *Private Ryan*, which stars Tom Hanks and opens in Britain next week, is a story of heroism and sacrifice based on true events: a squad of six American soldiers who risk their lives to save a paratrooper, James Ryan, the last survivor of a family of four brothers

The film depicts uncontrollable vomiting on the landing-craft as the soldiers nears the beach at Normandy; wounded men screaming for their mothers as they see their guts spilling on to the sand; and a soldier grabbing his severed arm from a mass of bodies. The actors had to eat rations and crawl and sleep in mud. A leading American historian of the period, Stephen Ambrose, Boyd Professor of History at the University of New Orleans and a consultant on the film, said: "I saw on the screen what I have heard from the 3,000 veterans I've interviewed over the years. And I never thought I'd see that."



Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg in Venice yesterday. "The film uses the vocabulary of war," Spielberg said

# Albanians hunted after Briton is raped in Greece

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

GREEK police are hunting two Albanians after the abduction and repeated rape of a British tourist as she walked to an archaeological site. The woman, a civil servant aged 46, was forced into a cave by three men at the site near Naoussa in northern Greece before she managed to escape. She had arrived in Greece last week for a two-week holiday.

patrons. Kiku was appearing yesterday before a prosecutor to be charged. The Foreign Office said: "The woman has been receiving hospital treatment and is as well as can be expected." The incident has revived concern in Greece over a soaring crime wave since neighbouring Albania descended into anarchy after a popular uprising last year. In March, Roy and Judith Eccles, from St Neots, Cambridgeshire, were stabbed at the retirement villa they built on the Ionian island of Cephalonia. Two Albanians have been charged with murder. In June, Maire Cronin, 34, of Putney, south-west London, was kidnapped at Athens airport as she prepared to fly home after a holiday, and was murdered.

# Mystery of body that cannot be identified

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

THE body of a man with a question-mark scar on his forehead has remained unidentified a year after it was fished from the sea off Land's End, an inquest was told yesterday.

A description, fingerprints and dental charts of the dead man, listed as DEC 1, had failed to produce a single lead, despite being circulated in Britain and abroad. The white male, who was in his late thirties, 5ft 10in and weighed 11 stone, had been in the sea for up to a week before his body was found.

He carried no papers, wore no jewellery and had no identifying features apart from the oddly shaped surgical scar. It stretched from his forehead to his right ear and would have been particularly prominent because of his receding hair.

Doug Crew, the coroner's officer, told the inquest in Penzance that it was the first time in nine years in the job that he had been unable to identify a body.

Later he said: "The sad thing about this is that a man can die and not be missed." He added: "There remains a possibility that this mystery man was pushed overboard from a boat."

The coroner, Edward Carlyon, recorded an open verdict and released the body for burial in an unmarked grave in a churchyard in Penzance.

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# Time for injection of ideas, says Ashdown

Philip Webster on a manifesto designed to sharpen the party's identity

PADDY ASHDOWN yesterday proposed compulsory second pensions, measures to take ten million people out of paying tax and plans for neighbourhood trusts to take over the running of schools as he promised that the Liberal Democrats would remain the "pathfinders" of politics.

Presenting what he called the most radical recasting of a party's agenda for a decade, Mr Ashdown also backed a constitution for Europe to define the role of Brussels in relation to the nation state, a big cut in the size of the Commons and a drastic reduction in the number of peers.

He put forward a 113-page "mid-term manifesto" drawn up after a six-month post-election policy review, clearly designed to sharpen the identity of the Liberal Democrats at a time when he has faced internal opposition for "cosying up" too closely to Tony Blair.

The document *Moving Ahead - Towards a Citizens Britain* will go before his party's conference later this month and be the subject of "old-fashioned bruising" debates, Mr Ashdown predicted.

Claiming that his party rather than Mr Blair's had always represented the "third way" in politics, and that it had been well ahead of Labour

over devolution and Bank of England independence. Mr Ashdown said that it was time to move forward again, with the Liberal Democrats once more the powerhouse of new ideas.

He called on the Government to "encourage a new spirit of entrepreneurialism and experimentation in the public sector".

Advocating a scheme already running in New Zealand, he called for contracts between Government and people to "give the citizen a genuine judgment about the way the Government has used its money effectively to achieve the outcomes for which they

voted". Such a move would "change the culture of Government both nationally and locally" and there could come a time when a portion of a minister's pay would be determined by his performance.

In some of his sharpest language in recent months about Labour, Mr Ashdown spoke of the offensive smell of "moral authoritarianism" that was emanating from the Government. Mr Blair said he was a democratic pluralist, but the Government acted like a "bunch of control freaks", Mr Ashdown said. It gave Scotland devolution but then insisted it was run from Millbank Tower, Labour's

London headquarters. The Liberal Democrat leader also laid the ground for potential conflict with the Labour leadership when the Jenkins Commission reports soon on a new voting system which will be put to the country next year in a referendum. He endorsed the document's conclusion that the alternative vote system - the only change acceptable to many at the top of the Labour Party - would be unacceptable.

Mr Ashdown said the overall theme of the new agenda was measures to promote the powerful citizen living in a strong community backed by an enabling government. Earlier this century, the Liberal Party had set the agenda which others had followed. "While the Government has been governing, while the Tories have been at war with themselves, the Liberal Democrats have been thinking about how it is we take those principles we have and become again the pathfinders of politics," he said.

While some of the policies are familiar, such as the readiness to raise income tax by 1p for spending on education, the document contains many fresh ideas. The Liberal Democrats propose taxes on pollution to help pay for the cuts designed so that no one's



Paddy Ashdown presenting what he said was the most radical recasting of a party's agenda for a decade

## SETTING THE POLITICAL AGENDA



While the Government has been governing, while the Tories have been at war, the Liberal Democrats have been thinking about how we become again the pathfinders of politics

earnings below £10,000 are subject to tax. They propose a phased "carbon tax" on fossil fuels designed to encourage homes and business to use clean instead of polluting sources.

Those on low incomes should be taken out of tax altogether. By phasing out what they called ill-judged, but unnamed, reliefs, increasing taxes on pollution, and using revenues from growth they would aim over two years to increase the starting level for paying income tax to

£10,000, taking some ten million people out of paying tax. The proposal for compulsory second pensions is clearly designed to trump Labour. Frank Field, the former welfare minister, left his job over his failure to make headway on the issue. Under the plan, people would have to contribute either to an occupational scheme or to new "owned second pension accounts" which would be simple, low-cost and run by the private sector with straightforward but tough regulation.

The document proposes the end of the current system of hospital waiting lists with its replacement by a diary system giving priority to clinical factors. The aim would be to guarantee a maximum waiting time of six months for operations.

Community-based groups and others would be encouraged to establish not-for-profit neighbourhood schools trusts to take over the operation of individual schools or groups of schools. Parish councils could establish the trusts, they

could own their own premises and employ their own staff.

Mr Ashdown fully expects sharp opposition to some of the ideas. Yesterday Jackie Ballard, the Liberal Democrat MP for Taunton, said: "There will be some parts of the country and some communities where it is very difficult to get good people to be involved on local committees to run the school."

"There is a danger you will have a second tier of schools."

Leading article, page 21

## Third party takes a lead in the great policy debate

THE temptation for the Liberal Democrats has always been to play the opposition card and attack the Blair Government from the "left".

Many in the party have always disliked Tony Blair, just as many old Liberals resented David Owen (whose role in preparing the way for new Labour is now underestimated); this has often been in the excitable manner of schoolchildren poking fun at, and being rather jealous of, the smooth and successful head prefect. At worst, some Liberal Democrats

of the party's traditional interest groups. Many Lib Dems sound as if nothing good ever comes out of Whitehall, and nothing bad out of town halls. This is hardly surprising since it is so long since they were ministers, while they control, or have a big say, in a large number of shire county and district councils. The paper rightly argues that stronger local democracy need not, and should not, automatically mean provision by local councils.

The Lib Dems have some interesting ideas on moving towards a contractual model in the public sector, as in New Zealand, where there is clear

transparency about what performance objectives civil servants and public bodies are supposed to achieve. Most controversially within such a councillor-dominated party, the paper also questions the monopoly of local education authorities.

It proposes that community groups and others should be allowed to establish not-for-profit neighbourhood school trusts to take over the operation of individual schools or groups of schools. This has already aroused the opposition of the formidable Jackie Ballard, MP for Taunton.

The paper also tackles the no-go area for the Government of taxes. This is about much more than the party's hackneyed and largely empty proposal for 1p on the basic rate of income tax. There needs to be an open debate on both the structure of the tax system and the link between the taxpayer and public services. This has also been recognised in the announcement this week by the Fabian Society of a new commission on Taxation and Citizenship under the chairmanship of Raymond Plant, with an impressive membership.

Gordon Brown has been unwilling to tackle these issues directly. Tax is merely one example of where the Government is not keen on public debate. Whatever happens in their relations with New Labour, the Lib Dems have an important role as a third party in producing fresh thinking. The Brighton conference in two weeks will show whether Lib Dems generally are willing to be as politically mature and intellectually adventurous as their leader.

PETER RIDDELL

### RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Paddy Ashdown's problem - not always successfully resolved - has been how to maintain the right tone and balance in his strategy of "constructive opposition": co-operating with the Government where there is agreement, as on the constitution, while being able to criticise where there is disagreement, as over the funding of public services or the centralist style of new Labour.

His attempt to establish the party's distinctive identity without sounding shrill has been given substance in the party's new 113-page policy review. This takes account of how much has happened since the general election, and takes forward the debate on, for example, constitutional reform, where the Government is fuzzy and evasive about the next steps. While some of the proposals are over-ambitious, there at least needs to be a debate about the framework for a new constitutional settlement, rather than the Government's piecemeal, and publicly, cautious approach.

Moreover, Mr Ashdown and his close colleagues are prepared to challenge some



Ballard: against new ideas on school trusts

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# Yeltsin's Duma battle enters second round

PRESIDENT YELTSIN today squares up for his second bruising encounter this week with the opposition-led parliament, which is expected again to throw out his nomination for Prime Minister.

As the Kremlin leader's allies prepared for another acrimonious session in the Duma, the Communist-dominated lower house of parliament, the rouble hit a new low of 17.5 to the US dollar.

The economic jitters were caused in large part by the continued paralysis in Russia, where the appointment of Viktor Chernomyrdin was blocked on Monday by the Communists and their allies.

Mr Chernomyrdin was defiant last night, when he sought support from the influential Federation Council, the upper house of parliament, where he told senators that he was forming his Government with or without parliamentary approval.

Yevgeni Primakov, the Foreign Minister, has been re-nominated, along with Mar-

**Chernomyrdin defiantly picks Cabinet team, writes Richard Beeston**

shal Igor Sergeev, the Defence Minister, Sergei Stepashin, the Interior Minister, and Boris Pyodorov, the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of economy.

However, implementing any meaningful economic policies, particularly the tough anti-inflationary measures that the West is urging, will be impossible until the political stalemate is broken.

The Communists showed no signs of backing down and insisted that Mr Yeltsin either put forward another candidate or stand down himself. If the Duma rejects Mr Chernomyrdin on a third reading Mr

Yeltsin can dissolve the chamber and set a date for new elections, a move which parliamentarians have said that they will resist.

Gennadi Seleznyev, the Communist Speaker of Parliament, suggested that the crisis could worsen when he noted that parliament could vote on Tuesday on a motion to impeach Mr Yeltsin over his role in breaking up the Soviet Union and ordering the invasion of Chechnya.

While all sides insist that the power struggle will not turn violent, the stand-off is disturbingly similar to the battle between the Kremlin and parliament in October 1993 which led to tanks blasting besieged deputies and the loss of hundreds of lives.

Despite the threat of violence and the continued alarmist warnings, there were also modest signs of a possible compromise. The Kremlin announced that a power-sharing deal, rejected by the Communists on Monday, had been amended by Mr Yeltsin and resubmitted with minor adjustments for the Duma's consideration. It would grant parliament the right to vet all candidates for Cabinet posts.

Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the unpredictable ultra-nationalist leader, one of the noisiest Yeltsin opponents, announced that he and his party would vote in favour of Mr Chernomyrdin. That could boost Mr Chernomyrdin's support from the meagre 94 he received on Monday to more than 150 votes, well short of the 226 he requires for confirmation.

Brussels. The European Union told Russia that it must find its own salvation through continued economic and political reforms and ruled out any new financial help other than technical aid (Charles Bremner writes).

In a co-ordinated signal to President Yeltsin and Moscow's squabbling political establishment, the 15 member states and the European Commission made clear that Russia could expect no injection of fresh cash.



Doctors for President Yeltsin, Winston Churchill and Stalin are all said to have had to deal with their patients' heavy drinking. John F. Kennedy's physician was held responsible for aggravating the President's sexual drive



## Drinking problems resurface to plague President

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

FRESH doubts were raised yesterday about President Yeltsin's physical ability to remain in power, after allegations that he was drinking again and could manage only two or three hours of work in a day.

According to a full-page article in the mass-circulation *Moskovsky Komsomolets* newspaper, the Kremlin leader's nagging health problems have returned to haunt him as he faces the toughest political and economic crisis of his seven-year rule.

The paper set out in detail Mr Yeltsin's long history of health problems, including repeated heart attacks and seizures as well as bouts of alcohol abuse. It claimed that the numerous statements from the Kremlin press service, saying that the President was "working with documents" at his country residence, really meant that he was incapacitated by illness or drink.

Those problems were supposed to have been resolved after open-heart surgery two years ago and a subsequent attack of pneumonia, which left the Russian leader weakened but ready to make a fresh start and lead a healthy life. Instead of obeying doctor's orders, Mr Yeltsin has reportedly returned to drinking alcohol, often as much as half a pint of vodka in one sitting, and relying on a number of painkillers to see him through the day.

Rinat Akhurin, the doctor who saved Mr Yeltsin's life in the operating theatre, was reportedly sacked in spring this year after falling out with Tatyana Dyachenko, the President's daughter and influential aide. Dr Akhurin refused to comment yesterday on the allegations.

Under Article 92 of the Russian Constitution, the head of state can be removed if he is physically no longer up to the job. Two years ago, when he underwent multiple bypass surgery, he briefly handed over his powers to Viktor Chernomyrdin, then Prime Minister.

## Communists' leader shows taste for blood

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

GENNADI ZYUGANOV, the leader of the Russian Communist Party, has over the past few days been suddenly transformed from a faceless apparition into a radical firebrand with a new-found sense of power and a lust for blood. He has now threatened to start civil disturbances if President Yeltsin does not give way to opposition demands.

Speaking this week at a closed session of the Duma Council, a transcript of which was leaked to *Moskovsky Komsomolets*, the Moscow daily, Mr Zyuganov reiterated his party's intention to defy Mr Yeltsin by rejecting Viktor Chernomyrdin, his choice of Prime Minister, even at the cost of the dissolution of the Duma (lower house of parlia-



Zyuganov threatens to provoke civil disorder

## Rulers bow to doctors' orders

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

EVEN as dictators silence the voices of those around them, they listen to their doctors. Those who treated Hitler, Stalin and Mao gained unique access to men who divulged their thoughts and emotions to no one and, surprisingly, they lived to tell the tale.

Even democratic leaders often find in their doctors the trusted confidant who can warn them not just about their smoking habits or diet, but when their tax proposals are unpopular or their popularity is slipping. Presidents Roosevelt and Kennedy, Baroness Thatcher and Sir Edward Heath all paid close attention to their doctors.

Those who ignore their doctors do so at their peril. President Yeltsin's dismissal of his physician has, reportedly, removed one of the constraints that kept him away from the bottle. Churchill would exasperate Lord Moran by refusing to obey his orders and, as a result, suffered fatigue, depression, strokes and ailments for which he was given regular doses of

amphetamines and barbiturates. But the doctors of dictators have the hardest task, fearing for their lives if their prescriptions are unsatisfactory. Some, however, establish an uneasy hold. Dr Theo Morell, with his pernicious racial theories, was so trusted by Hitler that he was allowed to prescribe dangerous drugs, in ever stronger doses, to control his moods and especially his physical deterioration after the 1944 bomb attack.

Stalin's personal physicians tried to curb his heavy drinking, but he had little time for the medical profession, believing it to be dominated by Jews. Towards the end of his life, he accused his most prominent members of being part of a "doctors' plot" against him.

Preparations were under way for a new purge, beginning with the doctors, that would have swept up prominent Jews in its wake. But Stalin had a stroke before the show trials began: the delay in summoning a doctor to his bedside and the refusal of any doctor to take

responsibility for diagnosis was probably what killed him.

Confidentiality is often at risk with famous politicians. Max Jacobson, who injected Kennedy with steroids, hormones, enzymes and animal organ cells, is largely held responsible for aggravating the President's sexual drive.

Non-medical reminiscences of doctors can be lethal to reputations. Mao's doctor, Li Zhisu, attended to him for almost 22 years and from 1955 kept diaries on the Chinese leader's activities. His memoir, published four years ago, portrays a monster of revolting habits, a voracious sexual appetite and minimal loyalty to his oldest comrades.

Lord Moran, Churchill's doctor, caused controversy with the publication of his book detailing Churchill's black moods, his drinking and the elaborate attempts to conceal his ailments from his opponents. But Lord Moran insisted his book was written with Churchill's approval.

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# Serb shells and bulldozers smash pledges

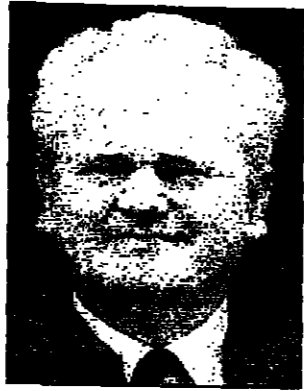
FROM TOM WALKER IN PRIZREN

PRESIDENT Milosevic of Yugoslavia bumbled the West again yesterday. His talk of a three-year peace framework in Kosovo was belied by fresh shelling in two previously untouched areas of the province, and more wanton destruction by his security forces who bulldozed the main street of the Albanian guerrillas' former chief town.

Contact Group observers and journalists alike were turned back from both regions under attack, one comprising a handful of villages between the central towns of Orahovac and Dakovica, and the other a rocky upland bisected by gorges southwest of Prizren, stretching down to the Albanian border. There the Albanians said they had sustained heavy losses, with as many as 40 dead, but sources in Prizren also claimed the Kosovo Liberation Army had captured three Yugoslav army tanks.

Today John Shattuck, US Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights, arrives in Pristina, and at the weekend the Republican Senator Robert Dole will fly into town. Mr Milosevic is sailing close to the wind, and it was difficult yesterday to define the Serb strategy in Kosovo, where an opponent already well beaten appears to be taking a merciless drubbing.

The Serbs claimed both fresh clampdowns were the result of KLA attacks, but many diplomats wondered if Belgrade was trying to annihilate the KLA before American pressure is such that Nato



Milosevic: no mercy to crushed rebel towns

intervention again becomes a threat.

The sound of shellfire has reverberated around the Lume region, southwest of Prizren, for the last 48 hours. Lume is a cross-border upland with a history of violent revolt, and has a substantial population of Muslim Slavs, known as Gorans.

A KLA source in Prizren claimed weapons smugglers bringing in arms from Albania inadvertently wandered into a Goran village, where a fight ensued and the Gorans — who are often pro-Belgrade — alerted the security forces.

He said that the first army convoy to weave its way through the treacherous ravines was attacked and forced to withdraw, leaving three of its T55 tanks with the KLA who had threatened to blow up one of the three bridges that cross the Bistrica and Drina rivers and link Lume to Kosovo.

Confirming either Albanian or Serb accounts was impossi-

ble yesterday, but shellfire could be heard and several truckloads of police and troops were seen embarking on the long dirt road towards the villages of Ljubicevo and Jeskovo. "They have destroyed everything, the villages are flattened," said an Albanian in a nearby gorge, who had fled from his home village.

"When we saw 30 tanks coming, we knew something was badly wrong," said the KLA source in Prizren. Thousands more refugees appeared to have swollen the mass of homeless who are already clogging the town's narrow cobbled streets.

Driving north towards Dakovica, the skyline was stained by dozens of smoke plumes rising from villages south of Orahovac. "You've got to go back, you've already seen quite enough," was all one policeman could offer as an explanation.

A crippled armoured personnel carrier missing its tracks was driven past, indicating that all had not gone smoothly for the army. The Serb media centre in Pristina said the KLA had mounted "synchronised" assaults overnight against the security forces, and "the chase after the attackers is still under way".

Thirteen "loyalist" Albanians working for the Serb Forestry Commission were kidnapped in the north of the province on Wednesday, near the town of Podujevo.

"It is a region that always explodes late in any revolt," said Dejan Anastasievic of the Belgrade weekly, *Vreme*. "But when it does, there is real trouble."



A woman and her children protest yesterday in front of riot police preparing to storm a factory owned by Mando Machinery, the South Korean maker of car parts. Police raided seven of the company's plants to break up an 18-day strike

# Clinton faces new funding investigation

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON is facing yet more trouble — a new investigation by the Justice Department into campaign fundraising. This is an old threat that the White House thought had been safely buried, but it could now resurface.

Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, has embarked on the first stages of an inquiry into whether Mr Clinton was closely involved in designing the Democratic advertising blitz before the 1996 elections, illegally reshaping messages about the party's policies into ones specifically helping his individual campaign.

The new investigation is part of a flurry of activity by Ms Reno, a presidential appointment who has been bitterly accused by Republicans of being soft on Mr Clinton. She is also at an advanced stage in two separate preliminary inquiries, into the raising of campaign funds by Al Gore, the Vice-President, and the accuracy of congressional testimony given by Harold Ickes, the former presidential aide.

While all three inquiries are at an early stage, they could lead her eventually to recommend the appointment of independent prosecutors to investigate the matter further — a nightmare the White

House is desperate to avoid. Kenneth Starr, the special prosecutor investigating the Lewinsky scandal, has dogged Mr Clinton's life for more than four years, since his early investigation of the President's financial dealings in Arkansas. A campaign finance inquiry would similarly eat up resources, and could put Democratic donors of making donations to Mr Gore's campaign in 2000.

David Kendall, Mr Clinton's private lawyer, who is still battling with the legal fallout from the Monica Lewinsky affair, met Justice Department officials on Wednesday in an attempt to head off a deeper investigation. If a formal inquiry is launched, he wants it to be directed at the 1996 campaign, not at Mr Clinton personally.

But Republicans, who are enthusiastic over Ms Reno's apparent new aggression, are wary of an investigation into the entire 1996 campaign, because Bob Dole, their presidential candidate, could also be accused of wrongly influencing party advertising.

The Republican National Committee, like its Democratic counterpart, ran advertisements starring its candidate. Under US law, party advertising must focus on issues rather than individuals.

# Florence uncovers secret walkway to Uffizi

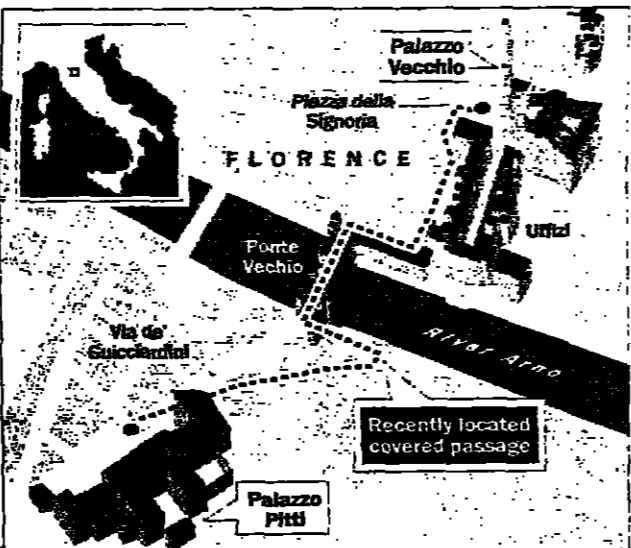
FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

A SECRET covered walkway across the River Arno in Florence built by the powerful Medici family in Renaissance times so that they could cross to the other side without being seen is being opened to the public after 500 years.

The passage runs from the Palazzo Vecchio and the Uffizi gallery to the Palazzo Pitti and the Boboli Gardens on the other side of the river. The key section is the "Vasari Corridor" or walkway that runs along the top of the 14th-century Ponte Vecchio, one of the world's oldest and longest-surviving covered bridges.

Visitors browsing in the ancient shops that line the picturesque bridge are often unaware that a closed passageway lies just above their heads. It was built during the reign of Duke Cosimo de Medici (1519-1574), the patron of Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo, so that members of the Medici family could go from one great palace to another without having to set foot in the street. It was constructed in only five months, and five workmen lost their lives because of the haste. "It was the first city skyway, a Renaissance rooftop passage," *La Repubblica* said.

The idea for the walkway arose when the Pitti family,



the Medicis' historic rivals in banking and business, were obliged to sell their huge unfinished palace to a triumphant Duke Cosimo in 1549 after running up catastrophic debts. Five years later, Cosimo ordered the passageway to be built to connect the Pitti with the Palazzo Vecchio and its adjoining administrative block, the Uffizi (which means offices in Italian), now the world-famous art gallery.

The architect was Giorgio Vasari, the noted Renaissance artist and historian, who built a covered corridor from the Palazzo Vecchio, along the quayside (formerly given over to a fish market) and along the top of the Ponte Vecchio, which dates from 1345. According to some accounts, the corridor was intended to mark the marriage of Cosimo's eldest son Francesco to Joan of Austria in 1565. It linked the "younger Medicis", who took up residence in the Pitti, with Cosimo and his beautiful wife, Eleanor of Toledo (whose portrait by Bronzino hangs in the Wallace Collection); the latter lived in the Palazzo Vecchio.

The Ponte Vecchio, lined with jewellers' shops, survived the end of the Second World War, when retreating German troops blew up all other Florentine bridges. But the secret passage was made unsafe by the force of the explosions. The Ponte Vecchio was further damaged in the 1966 floods, and in 1993 when the Mafia bombed targets in Florence in a vain attempt to destabilise the Government's anti-Mafia crackdown.

Antonio Paolucci, the former Minister of Culture who is now in charge of Florence's cultural heritage, said that from next Tuesday visitors would be able to look through windows and archways in the walkway over the rooftops of Florence to the great Cathedral Dome designed by Brunelleschi and the maze of medieval lanes in which Dante once walked. He said the passage would be open for groups of 30 tourists at a time, in an experiment that could last until November. "But we hope to make it a permanent part of the Florence experience for the Millennium," he said.

# Poorly equipped firefighters fail to tame Amazon forest flames

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN RIO DE JANEIRO

AUTHORITIES in Brazil have declared a state of emergency in several southern Amazon rainforest states as devastating fires — which have in the past week spread into Indian reservations and are killing wildlife and cattle — rage out of control. Gustavo Krause, the Environment Minister, this week announced an \$8.9 million fund for firefighting efforts in the states of Mato Grosso, Para, Goias, Rondonia, Tocantins and Bahia, the states worst affected.

"A state of emergency has been imposed and we will send out firefighting teams to the areas in flames," Senor Krause said. But environmental agencies condemned



the action as being "too little, too late". The first report of the fires, and satellite images showing there were 32,000 blazes over an area five times the size of Britain, were available two weeks ago. But the firefighting strength in the states of Mato Grosso and Goias has so far been up to 20 firefighters

firemen. Firefighters have been sent to São José de Kinga, outside the reserve, where 150,000 acres and some 500 heads of cattle were charred by fire. Rainforest-covered valleys which were once filled with sloths, leopards and dozens of monkey species have been turned into charred cemeteries of tree skeletons.

"Thousands of animals have been killed, although we have rescued several baby monkeys who managed to get away," said a spokesman of the Ibama, Brazil's cash-strapped official environmental protection agency.

Ipatana says it does not know how much land has already been swept away but Brazilian press reports say 3,700,000 acres have already

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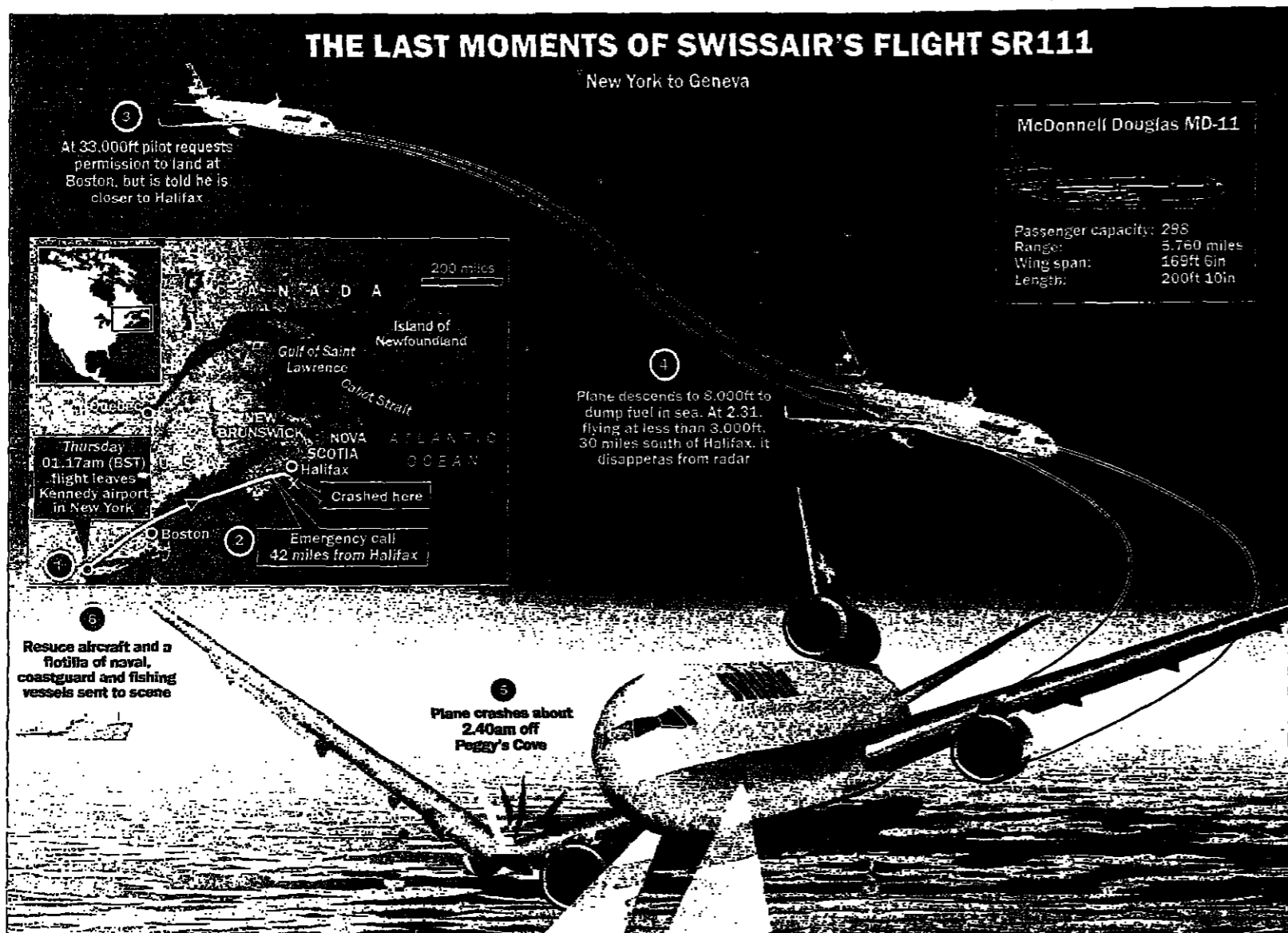
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# Flames started journey to disaster

RUBEN SPRICH / REUTERS



Relatives of passengers on the stricken Swissair jet weep at Geneva airport after learning that all 229 people had died in the crash. The plane came down less than an hour after leaving New York

## Cards stacked against aircrew

THE crew of Swissair Flight 111 faced every pilot's worst nightmare when they discovered a fire aboard their aircraft. Whatever its origin, whether electrical, in the engines, structure, cabin or hold, combustion poses a mortal threat to an aircraft's ability to stay airborne and to all life aboard.

The rule in such an emergency is simple: get the plane onto the ground or, failing that, water. But the bigger the craft, the tougher the job.

Although routinely rehearsed on simulators for such emergencies, the pilots of the McDonnell Douglas faced a monumental task in trying to bring the big airliner back for a landing at Halifax. For a start, even if the engines and flight controls had been working when they attempted their emergency descent and approach to Halifax, the crew would have had to fight the devastating effects of smoke on the flight deck.

The pilots would have used smoke masks and oxygen equipment as they scrambled to assess the damage, reading through emergency checklists to tackle the fire, dump a heavy load of fuel, and set up

**Charles Bremner, a qualified pilot, on the paralyzing effects of fire, the worst fear of those on the flight deck**

an approach to Halifax. Even without heat and intoxication, smoke can make it impossible to read the instruments or handle the automatic pilot. Visibility outside the cockpit, vital for final approach, especially to water, can become non-existent.

Airliners have made suc-

cessful landings with on-board fires, but they are the exception.

The Swissair crew was clearly also blighted with deteriorating control. An early Swissair account said they had first reported a problem to air traffic control when they were still in the Boston region on their flight northwards from New York, and still 400 miles from Halifax. But it was not clear why they failed to attempt a landing at Boston's Logan airport. As soon as the

pilots declared their emergency, controllers would have offered the crew "vectors", or directions, to guide them to Halifax.

Even without the sophisticated flight management electronics of the MD11, the pilots could have continued flying the old-fashioned way. They would have needed power on at least one of the three turbofan engines, plus use of the hydraulically powered control surfaces on the wings and tail and at least information from the basic instruments on airspeed and altitude.

Even without the engines, but with the other controls working, big modern airliners have twice over the past 15 years been glided to immaculate landings, once in Canada and once in the American South.

All the cards seemed to have been stacked against the Swiss crew as they struggled with loss of control and fire over the sea at night. Among the many obstacles was the necessity to unload tonnes of fuel to bring the heavily loaded aircraft down to an acceptable landing weight. The process would have consumed at least ten valuable minutes.

Early reports that spoke of unusual engine noise, suggested that the pilots had abandoned hope of reaching Halifax and may have been attempting to put their plane down on the water. Ditching a big aircraft at sea is exceedingly perilous, even when under full control. The exercise requires high skills in "hand flying" and plenty of luck. The crew must slow down to minimum speed, at least about 130mph in the case of this airliner, and "flare" the aircraft gently onto the water, taking into account the wind and sea conditions.

In the most recent case of a crash-landing, in November 1996, a hijacked Ethiopian Airlines jet was ditched in the Indian Ocean under full control.

## Airport vigil ends in rollcall of those who would never arrive

FROM ADAM SAGE IN GENEVA AND TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

AT 11am yesterday, Dr Pierre Froidevaux took it on himself to tell relatives waiting at Geneva airport that there were no survivors among the 229 passengers and crew on Flight SR111.

As he read out the names of the dead to relatives in an emergency room at the airport, most of the 100 or so people gathered to hear him broke down and wept. Others cried out: "Oh, my God, he was there," shrieked a woman who had lost her grandson.

Dr Froidevaux, head of the 40-strong emergency medical team put in place by the Swiss authorities said later: "Until then, many people had refused to believe that their loved ones had died. They kept on saying that their relatives knew how to swim, that they would have put on a lifejacket, that somehow they made it."

"Even though the authorities had not officially confirmed the deaths, I could not let the lie go on any longer.

We had to confront them with reality and let the grieving process begin.

"Everyone was gathered in the middle of the room and I had placed members of the medical team around them to intervene swiftly if they lost control or fainted. Those who wanted to cry were allowed to cry, and those who wanted to leave were allowed to leave."

Among those who rushed out of the airport was an elegant Swiss woman with tears smearing her make-up and running down onto her white T-shirt. She was too distressed to talk.

Lidia Picco, a Mexican living in Switzerland, said her sister had been on the plane. "I invited her, I paid for her to come, and now she is dead," she said.

By yesterday evening just ten relatives were still receiving counselling from Dr Froidevaux's team of doctors and psychiatrists. "There was a mother who had lost her son and a girlfriend who had lost

### RELATIVES' AGONY

her boyfriend," Dr Froidevaux said. "They cannot bring themselves to accept that what they are living through is true. It is horrible."

There were similar human dramas in New York, where local newspapers highlighted the case of a distraught grey-haired man who pushed his way through a crowd at John F. Kennedy Airport, saying: "I know somebody on this flight." As a throng of reporters closed around him, police escorted him away. They extended the same protection to a middle-aged man who said he had just put his wife and two daughters on the plane.

The families of five of the Americans on the flight arrived yesterday at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, less than a mile from the airport. Scores more are expected today. The Port Authority, which runs the airport, has established a counselling centre at the hotel, also the venue of a similar exercise in 1996 when TWA

Flight 800 blew up near Long Island. A large cordon of burly policemen, courteous but very firm, kept the media away from the mourners, who were huddled inside the hotel with counsellors, chaplains and rabbis.

Rudolph Giuliani, New York's Mayor, revealed that the brother of a friend of his had been on the flight. Without disclosing the friend's name, he said: "He's very distraught, obviously." He promised that no effort would be spared to help the relatives.

Yesterday Swissair announced that it would provide transport to any relatives who wished to travel to Peggy's Cove, where the plane crashed.

Rabbi Edgar Gluck, a counsellor employed by the Port Authority, said: "Some relatives are in a state of shock, real shock. Others are anxiously running to a phone to call the next of kin. There's obviously a lot of denial and a lot of hope... they've found only 36 bodies, so people think that others may have survived."

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## Swissair and plane had reputations to be envied

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, AVIATION CORRESPONDENT, AND JOANNA BALE

THE aircraft and airline involved in yesterday's crash each had impressive safety records before the Nova Scotia disaster.

Swissair, the privately-owned airline based in Zurich, has prided itself on its record that dates back almost 20 years without a fatal accident. The MD11 has not had a single fatality since entering service in 1990.

The last fatal incident on a Swissair aircraft involved a DC8 that overshot the runway at Athens airport on landing, killing 14 people. In February 1970, a Swissair Coronado jetliner broke up after take-off from Zurich, killing 47, after a bomb was planted on it by the People's Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

In September 1963, a Swissair Caravelle caught fire after take-off from Zurich and crashed, killing 80 people, including some on the ground.

In recent years the airline has traded heavily on its safety record and high quality of service. In 1997, Swissair had one of the biggest increases in passenger numbers, up 22 per cent to 10.8 million.

The airline, which flies to 184 destinations worldwide, was one of the biggest operators of the MD11, with 16 of its 62-strong fleet made by the US manufacturer McDonnell Douglas.

Swissair had a further four MD11s on order, although it is thought to have been planning to sell some of its existing aircraft, in keeping with its reputation for a high turnover of aircraft.

McDonnell Douglas, which was taken over by Boeing last

and brought it into operation four years later.

The Swissair aircraft was delivered to the company in 1991 and had flown 35,000 hours, making it relatively young in airline terms. As a long-haul aircraft, it would typically be used for 15 hours a day and had flown from Geneva to New York on the day of the crash.

The MD11 is a three-engine, wide-bodied jet that seats 298 passengers, and is powered by Pratt & Whitney engines. "It's a very well thought of aircraft," said Kieran Daly, of Air Transport Intelligence. "Both the aircraft and the airline have a very good safety record in the industry."

American National Transportation Safety Board

### SAFETY RECORD

records show that since the model was put into service there have been 15 incidents in which the tails of MD11s struck the ground on landing, damaging the exterior of the planes.

Before the Swissair crash, the most serious incident involving an MD11 occurred in 1997, when a Federal Express cargo MD11 crashed into the runway and burnt at Newark International Airport. The jet had earlier been seriously damaged when it descended too quickly and its tail struck the runway during a hard landing in Anchorage, Alaska, in 1994.

The tail strikes prompted the National Transportation Safety Board to issue recom-

and crew of the doomed MD11 appeared to have had very little warning that they were about to crash into the sea.

In a controlled landing on water, the doors would have been turned to automatic to allow the emergency escape chutes to be deployed, but this does not appear to have happened. Also, Canadian authorities said that not all the bodies had lifejackets on, which suggests they had little warning of the impending crash.

At the first sign of an emergency, a pilot will radio to the nearest air traffic control to alert them that he wants to make an emergency landing. Canadian officials said the first indication of an emergency came less than ten minutes before the plane disappeared from radar. The pilot told controllers his cockpit was filled with smoke. He asked to land at Boston, but was told he was closer to Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Usually in an emergency, the pilot will call a senior crew member into the cockpit, using a recognised phrase that does not alarm passengers. Each crew member will realise that there is a problem and will await a briefing from the senior crew member. "The captain will then make a safety announcement to passengers."

It is known that the stricken aircraft dumped several tonnes of fuel over St Margarets Bay before crashing nearby. The plane did not explode on impact. Much of it was in small fragments, the size of jigsaw pieces.

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# Jet was minutes away from safety



Rescue workers remove a body and debris from the Atlantic Ocean south of Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia early yesterday. The Swissair jet en route to Geneva crashed near the fishing village, above

## Fishermen brave choppy seas in vain trawl for survivors

A GIANT flotilla of fishing boats, Coastguard and Navy vessels, backed by half a dozen helicopters from the Canadian armed forces, intensified its search for bodies from the crashed Swissair flight floating in the Atlantic seven miles off the coast of the picturesque fishing village of Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police—co-ordinating the search from the shore, have asked local fishermen not to put out to sea to fish with their nets as they normally would. Police do not want fishermen catching parts of human bodies in their fishing nets.

"We cannot stop them from going out, but we're asking them not to do it until we can clean up the site," Sergeant Wayne Noonan said. By last night they had picked up 16 bodies and parts of 20 more.

The area several square miles wide out at sea in about 120ft of water was being buffeted by stronger winds yesterday. Police fear the debris mixed in with the 200 tonnes of fuel dumped by the pilot in a desperate attempt to lighten the load on his failing aircraft has caused environmental damage to the crash area, rich in lobster.

Peggy's Cove is a tourist site founded in 1811. It boasts a population of 60 year round and several thousand in the summer when the tourists arrive. Yesterday the tourists returned in the form of close to 1,000 journalists and camera crews from across North America and Europe.

## Richard Cleroux in Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia, on the nightmare that came to a fishing port

"I heard a huge crash, like thunder," said Wilfred Morash, a resident of nearby Blandford, recalling the explosion. "Then all of a sudden on my scanner the alarms went off and they said a plane had gone down."

Stella Coolen, another resident, said it was the worst thing she had ever seen in her 60 years, the last six in Peggy's Cove. "I heard this terrific noise and I thought something had happened but I didn't

know what it was," she said. "I had been watching the telly when I heard the noise. Nothing happened until about ten minutes later when all these ambulances started arriving in front of my door. My poor heart went down to my stomach. I'm still shaking today."

There were thousands of people in fishing villages along the south shore of Nova Scotia who heard the noise when the jet slammed at top speed into the water. Hundreds of them raced to the shore and jumped in their boats to go out to look for survivors.

Within half an hour they were joined by two ships from a Canadian naval dockyard in nearby Halifax, the home base for the Canadian Navy on the Atlantic. Despite their prompt arrival, no survivors were found.

Don McDonnell, a lorry driver who put out to sea, said: "There was debris everywhere, bits of Styrofoam, probably from the passenger seats. I kept shining my flashlight into the water to see if I could find anything moving that was human." He searched for hours in vain and

Preserver, a supply ship, is also a hospital ship which served in the Gulf War and so was used to collect the bodies as they were pulled from the water.

One fisherman saw a woman in a lifejacket bobbing in the water, her arms moving up and down in the waves and began to shout over his radio that he had found a survivor. He was mistaken. And the cheers of fellow fishermen turned to sadness.

In Halifax, authorities had cleared more than 200 hospital beds in a vain wait for the survivors who never arrived. By dawn the hospital authorities glumly refilled the wards with regular patients and sent their emergency staff back home.

Officials estimate that the pilot who radioed Halifax about one hour out of New York was wrestling with a fire either in one engine or in the cockpit, because he told air traffic control in Halifax that there was smoke filling up the cabin. That is when he was directed towards an emergency landing in Halifax and told to jettison most of his load of fuel.

Authorities believe that he was seven to ten minutes from being able to land his crippled jetliner safely on a runway at Halifax airport. They also note that if the jetliner had not struck the water at top speed at a steep angle it might have been able to stay aloft long enough for some passengers to be rescued by the first fishermen who arrived minutes later.

Authorities set up a temporary mortuary at the Shearwater air force base outside Halifax and have laid out more than 250 plastic bags on the floor of the hangar.

"I kept shining my flashlight in the water to see if I could find anything that was human"

enough for all the victims, they believe. A hangar has been set aside in suburban Dartmouth out near Halifax to receive parts of the aircraft as they are collected and ferried by helicopter back to shore.

The aircraft will be reconstructed bit by bit in the hangar. Inspectors from the Canadian Transportation Safety Board arrived during the night and were joined yesterday morning by a chartered aircraft from the Federal Aviation Authority in New York.

Swissair officials said that 136 of the passengers were American, 41 Swiss, 30 French and 12 from other European nations. There were four United Nations diplomats among the victims.

The flight between New York and Geneva is popular with members of United Nations staff.

## Residents of a tranquil tourist haven mourn violent deaths

BY RICHARD CHEROUX

### CRASH AREA

AT TIMES, the Atlantic strikes the picturesque south shore of Nova Scotia with a ferocity unequal to anything in the ocean.

Ironically, on the night of the greatest air or sea tragedy in these parts, the water was remarkably calm with only 3 ft swells and a relatively mild water temperature of 14C (57F).

The sky was clear and the winds were steady at less than 10 mph — they can often gust unexpectedly to ten times that. It began to rain gently for an hour or two shortly after the jet crashed and sank to the

bottom of the ocean in 120 ft of water, about seven miles out to sea.

One resident said the unexpected passing cloud "was probably tears for those who died". Several others agreed. But within two hours the rain had passed and the grim, unsuccessful search for survivors continued through the night under ideal conditions.

Yesterday, the sea was slightly more agitated with 10 ft swells and winds of up to 20 mph, but the sun shone brightly and no one complained about the weather as

the search for survivors became a search for the dead.

A Red Cross tent was set up on shore, where a few members of the Canadian armed services and several journalists also waited, subdued. A command post stood in the car park of a restaurant overlooking the lighthouse and craggy shore.

Peggy's Cove is a popular Nova Scotia tourist village where fishing sustains many residents and surf pounding against the rocks sends spray 30 ft high.

"It is very eerie. Nothing happens here," said Eleanor McMahon, a visitor to the town.



No survivors, a Geneva official tells reporters

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COMPILED BY DEBORAH BRETT

**Working out a capsule winter wardrobe**

I love almost everything about the French — their clothes, their food, their terrifying, peremptory manners. But I do think they are very hard on their poor schoolchildren. From practically the first day of the summer holidays, the shop windows on every high street are filled with displays celebrating *la rentrée* — autumn leaves and clusters of cobnuts and blackberries and bright-eyed squirrels gambolling among piles of gymslips and satchels. Wherever you look, there is a reminder that the holidays will soon be over.

Well, now the *rentrée* really is here and having spent the past week sewing on several gross of Cash's name tapes, I am finally at liberty to contemplate my own post-holiday wardrobe. With no prospect of an Indian summer in sight, the weather is definitely more suited to hairy tweeds than filmy chiffons, and as I force my reluctant child into his grey-flannel school trousers and shiny new lace-ups, it occurs to me that I haven't a thing to wear.

Actually, grey flannel and black lace-ups might be quite a good place to begin. Every autumn I tell myself that henceforth I am going to live a virtuous and co-ordinated life, exchanging my regrettable magpie tendencies for a capsule collection of two skirts, two pairs of trousers, a handful of cashmere sweaters and a jacket that will go with everything.

In fact, I know that the only way I'll ever achieve this kind of pared-down wardrobe is if the house burns down, leaving me with nothing but my nightie. However, suspending disbelief for a moment (and drawing a veil over the black glittery crochet skirt I picked up for next to nothing in the Warehouse sale, not to mention the only slightly moth-eaten Donegal tweed suit and hand-knitted jumper that somehow attached themselves to me when I dropped into my local charity shop), let us consider what I might choose if I were looking for the basis of a small but versatile working wardrobe that was inexpensive and neither



Hemlines have dropped for autumn and winter with Chanel's maxi skirt back in vogue

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too boringly classic nor too extreme.

The high street at the moment is noticeably stronger on some of the new autumn looks than others — mubby tweeds and grey knits are ubiquitous; fur bouclé, mohair and boiled wool easily come by; very long skirts not quite so common — buyers haunted by visions of endless trailing racks of them stashed to half price in the January sales have tended to concentrate on skirts that hover cautiously around the knee.

At Oasis, a very pretty pale grey knee-length embroidered skirt is £39.99 — good with their velvet-trimmed grey wool-mix cardigan and silver plush knee-length single-breasted coat, £99.99. A smart little city bag in grey fabric with a slight nap is £21.99. A black and white speckled wool mix tweed jacket with patch pockets and a single button is £94.99, trousers £54.99.

At Hobbs, whose winter clothes always seem, mysteriously, to be miles better than their summer collections, a very smart fitted jacket in grey flannel is £189.99; matching narrow side-fastening trousers are £82.99. If your heart is set on a long skirt, they have a narrow, high-waisted, ankle-length version with a back split in an interesting textured black wool for £62.99. A matching long jacket with five curved jet buttons is £159.99 — pretty with Pied à Terre's ruffled mohair cardigan, £95. Hobbs's black floor-length double-breasted overcoat is £210, and a knee-length single-breasted cashmere mix coat in black or grey is £275.

Less formal, but very cosy, is Monsoon's long draught-excluder of a knitted lambswool skirt, £44.95. A matching tunic is £42.95 and a long ribbed dress £49.95 (good with Hobbs's pewter leather riding boots, £169.99, or grey suede Mary Jane's, £64.99. If you can't do without a heel, Pied à Terre has kitten-heeled Mary Jane's for £99).

**HOT TIP**

Julia Kwan has an insider's knowledge of Chinese home remedies which makes her Wu skin-care products more than just another Zen-like gimmick. They all contain active ingredients from the Far East, such as crushed pearl, ginseng and royal jelly. One of the best is her Collina, China root and Chinese honeysuckle mask (£19.95), a caramel-coloured cream which draws out inflammation, reduces redness and helps to sink spots before they've even surfaced. Available at Liberty, 210-220 Regent Street W1. (0171-734 1234) DB

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MAN ON TOP  
JOE JOSEPH

# Here's a tip: don't forget the small change

With the evenings already drawing in, I know that many of you are looking for a hobby to see you through the winter months. If you're seeking a pastime that's expensive but still results in your being repeatedly humiliated (and you don't want to join the local gym, where the members are so lean that they'd laugh out loud when you waddled in if it didn't disrupt their aerobic breathing exercises), then maybe you should consider taking up tipping. Although tipping takes many forms, a tip is still legally defined as "something that is ungainfully and has no useful function in the modern world, but which isn't actually Sarah Ferguson".

The first thing you learn from tipping is how to measure quality of service. But you also learn how it can open doors. Napoleon wouldn't have received such a

chilly reception when trying to enter various neighbouring countries if he'd removed his hand from his tunic occasionally. If only Napoleon had slipped the maitre d' of Prussia a few francs, who knows how the history of Europe might have turned out.

But even if you are generous, tipping still throws up problems for those of us who can never manage to slide a note into the palm of a hotel concierge without feeling that, however generous we are being, the concierge is giving us that smile which says "My, how generous, but is it generous enough for me not to tell housekeeping to put starch in your boxer shorts?" That's why many people would welcome replacing tipping with a system under which we pay whatever it is we're supposed to pay for fair service. I'm thinking here particularly of those of us who were

too busy remembering to pack our passports and phrasebooks before heading off on our summer holidays to remember to stuff our wallets with low-denomination notes, which is the reason why we arrived in our foreign hotel room and found ourselves slipping a bellboy a \$20 bill because he had told us how to switch on the TV ("Press this button marked 'ON', sir, and you won't go far wrong") and also where to find the flush on the loo ("See this little chrome lever? Just grab it and twist. You'll soon get the hang of it"), along with a few of the other amenities of the room ("Now this feature here, it's what we call a window. Any time you fancy taking in a glimpse of the local scenery, you just look out of it, like so").

Sometimes you wonder whether the "local customs" section of guidebooks is where the publisher

allows the author to play a few practical jokes as a reward for having got at least 40 per cent of the museum opening times correct. So the author will write that "in China tipping is forbidden because it perpetuates the bourgeois master-servant relationship". But there are so many people in China that word of this ban obviously hadn't reached the native tour guides who steered me around the country a few years ago: they just laughed at the author's cute sense of humour.

Some of my guides did admit that they might feel uncomfortable accepting an actual tip but, on the other hand, they wouldn't be offended if I were to give them a small gift that would help them to improve their English, preferably a gift containing the words "I promise to pay the

bearer on demand the sum of £50". Look, I certainly don't want to give you the impression that all a Chinese tour guide wants is your hard-earned pounds, because they'll happily accept dollars, too.

But the natives can be equally forward in capitalist countries. In parts of Los Angeles, for example, tipping is so common that you even tip total strangers a small sum in return for their agreeing not to kill you as you walk home.

In many airports the enthusiastic porter who carries your bags towards the taxi queue would appreciate a small financial thank-you, especially if you would appreciate seeing your bags again. New York waiters are famous for making life easier for diners by devising a simple formula for calculating the correct tip, which is "double the total bill and deduct enough for your subway fare home". This is the

"winter formula". The "summer formula" is "double the bill and walk home: the weather's so balmy".

The dumbest aspect of tipping is that you hand over the cash after the person has done something for you, even if they haven't done it very well. But what if they didn't do it well because they reckoned that you'd be a poor tipper? Much smarter would be to walk into the restaurant and say straight away: "Here's 50 per cent of the tip now, with the same again if you don't spill the soup in our laps. Deal?"

This would be particularly smart in a hairdresser's, for example. On the other hand, it's a risky strategy if you're only a so-so tipper, and if it would in any way upset you to emerge from the barber's chair with an authentic Telly Savalas look. That's exactly why Napoleon always had to wear that silly hat.

# Under her mink coat Marilyn was naked

An overdose and an affair — and the marriage was over. The final extract from Barbara Leaming's new book

When John Huston agreed to work with Arthur Miller he made it clear that *The Misfits* had to be substantially revised. If Miller could finish a rewrite by the end of the summer, Huston hoped to shoot in April 1960.

One night, when Miller had gone to Connecticut to write in peace and Marilyn was alone in New York, she took another overdose. By the time the news got to him, her stomach had been pumped.

Her overdoses were not always intentional. Once when Miller had gone to the country alone, Marilyn, unable to sleep, devoured several pills at once; the maid found her unconscious on the bedroom carpet. A physician pumped her stomach and Miller was summoned from Roxbury.

Miller had a choice: to take care of Marilyn or to get on with his life and work. It seemed he would choose the latter. After *Death of a Salesman*, his only full-length play to run in New York had been *The Crucible*, in 1953. The expanded version of *A View from the Bridge* had been seen only in England. His priority was to get his screenplay produced.

He held up in Connecticut, writing seven days a week. Though Marilyn accompanied him to the country, by and large he retreated into his work. Miller had started *The Misfits* to help Marilyn to hold on to her dream. Now he seemed to be trying to do the same for himself, fighting for his own dignity.

But Miller did sign up to do two weeks of rewrites on Marilyn's current project: for a \$15,000 fee, he agreed to develop her role in *Let's Make Love*. He wanted no publicity about his involvement. *The Misfits* was to be his screenwriting debut.

Once production on *Let's Make Love* was under way, Marilyn alternated between working partial days and calling in sick. On February 18 she stayed out without notifying the studio. It called her bungalow but there was no answer.

Her co-star, Yves Montand, boiled with rage. He sent his wife, Simone Signoret, to see what was going on. She knocked on the door but Marilyn wouldn't answer. That night Miller called the Montands from Galway. Marilyn had asked him to call. Ashamed, she wanted Montand and Signoret to come back. When they arrived she begged their forgiveness, promising not to do it again. Miller stayed away for another week, working on *The Misfits* with Huston.

In April, Miller joined Marilyn in Los Angeles but stayed just a few days. After he had attended to some *Misfits*-related business, he returned to New York to finish his screenplay. That April of 1960, as he had done nine years before, Miller left Marilyn alone in Los Angeles with a friend — not with Elia Kazan this time but with Montand. In 1951 Marilyn had reacted to Miller's departure with sadness; this time it was with anger. For months she was with anger. For months she had given Miller every signal that she was distraught, yet *The Misfits* remained his priority. He should have known Marilyn would keep trying to get his attention.

She stayed home from work with a fever. Montand got a message to visit her. Marilyn greeted him in bed. He sat on the edge of it, made small talk and stroked her hand. Then he said he had to go home to prepare for the next day. He kissed her cheek, tore for the next day. He felt she moved slightly. Their lips pressed a pang of guilt. And matters proceeded as from there. The following night she came from there. When she took off her mink coat she was naked.

Was it spite that motivated her? Or was Marilyn testing Miller? She had tried almost everything to provoke him. If sleeping with his friend didn't do the trick, what would? She later told Kazan that she resented what she saw as Miller's tendency to cast himself as morally superior.

Miller, in New York, had no idea what was going on. Perhaps he didn't want to. He knew only that Marilyn was in excellent spirits. He was not suspicious about why his wife, who had dragged herself through the film, was suddenly so pleased.

Perhaps it was his lack of suspiciousness that caused Marilyn to flaunt the relationship. In Montand's bungalow one morning she let herself be seen by a room-service waiter and soon people were talking all over town. A week later Miller came to Los Angeles, but even when he found out that his wife had been sleeping with her co-star he suppressed his anger. Yet at least one old friend discerned the feeling in his voice, the hurt in his face.

The affair with Montand had started as a way of testing Miller but had become something else. Marilyn saw Montand as her new protector. She decided he must divorce Signoret and marry her. Montand intended to do no such thing.

Miller could not stop Marilyn sleeping with Montand but he would not stand by while she brought down *The Misfits*. He took steps to get her to New York: despite his humiliation, it would be safer to have her close by where she could be watched until Huston was ready for her.

Marilyn arrived in New York on Sunday and focused on Thursday, when Montand would be changing planes there. Somehow she had to convince him not to go back to Signoret. She reserved a hotel suite near the airport, ordered champagne

used — though not by Huston. It was Miller himself who seems to have set the bar the highest, casually referring to *King Lear*, *Hamlet* and *Oedipus Rex*. His eagerness to believe that his script was a masterpiece, and Huston's cool awareness that it was in fact deeply flawed, would lead to clashes in the weeks to come.

Marilyn, to arrive two days after Huston started filming, was another source of pressure on Miller. Would she appear on time — or at all? And in what condition? Her use of barbiturates had escalated dangerously. Were Miller to face the real problem — that she was in no condition to be in this picture — he might have to shut down *The Misfits*. Which, apparently, he was not prepared to do. But was he merely doing everything necessary to get his picture made, or were his motives more complex?

The first days of filming went smoothly. But Marilyn was having trouble with her role. Miller had sentimentalised Roslyn, which to Marilyn meant one thing: he could not acknowledge her past. She needed Miller to love her despite the shameful things she had done, and saw the script as proof that he had never accepted her — perhaps the most painful rejection of all.

Marilyn lashed out at Miller, quarrelling with him publicly. She took up to 20 Nembutals a day. Some mornings she could barely be roused. One assistant put her in the shower, another put on her make-up as she lay on the bed. She drifted between sleep and wakefulness.

Finally Huston shut the film down. Aware that if Marilyn failed to complete *The Misfits*, she would be uninsurable on future pictures, he arranged for her to enter hospital under the name of Mrs Miller. She was flown out in a private plane.

Marilyn returned to Reno on September 5 and went before the cameras the following day. But she could not stay away from drugs. Once, Miller arrived to find a doctor probing for a vein in the back of her hand, preparing to inject her with Amytal. When Marilyn spotted him she told her husband to leave.

As *The Misfits* dragged to an end, Marilyn's questions were still unanswered. Had Miller been using her? Had he endured betrayal and humiliation just to get his film made? Would he leave her once it was finished? As if she could not bear to learn the truth, she threw him out first. He moved to another hotel.

On November 4 Huston shot a retake of the ending that showed Gay and Roslyn starting a life together. Forty days behind schedule, *The Misfits* was finished. That weekend she and Miller flew back to New York separately. Marilyn went to their apartment, Miller to the Adams Hotel. Despite everything, she called him there to ask "Aren't you coming home?"

He did. But only to collect his possessions. Their marriage was over.

● Extracted from Marilyn Monroe by Barbara Leaming, to be published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson next week at £20. Times readers can buy it for £17 by ringing The Times Bookshop, 0990 134459. Copyright Barbara Leaming 1998



Monroe during shooting of *The Misfits*: did Miller endure all the betrayal and humiliation just to ensure that his film was made?

STYLE THE SUNDAY TIMES

Caprice Bourret bares all in the first part of a 12-page Beauty pull-out

MAGAZINE

Viagra: the downside of an upwardly mobile drug and lifestyle accessory

CULTURE

Jonathan Miller has turned his attention to art and the mirror image. Bryan Appleyard on a divided self

PLUS

News, Sport, News Review, Business, Money, Travel, Books and The Sunday Times

THE SUNDAY TIMES BUY IT THE SUNDAY PAPERS

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man Rights Law Report

UK is entitled to refuse to change birth certificates

**and Horsham v United Kingdom**  
31-32/1997/815-RIG/1018-

Bernhardt, President; Thor Vilhjalmsson, F. A. Spielmann, J. De Vralde, E. Palm, A. N. Morenilla, Sir John A. A. Lopes Rocha, L. J. Makarczyk, K. K. J. Casadevall, T. Ranzini, M. Voicu Iutkevych, P. Petold; Strasbourg, P. J. Mahoney July 31.

Kingdom was not obliged to change birth certificates in order to comply with the Convention. The authorities were not obliged to change birth certificates in order to comply with the Convention. The authorities were not obliged to change birth certificates in order to comply with the Convention.

University Hospital, Amsterdam. In September 1992 the United Kingdom Consulate in Amsterdam issued a passport in her new name recording her sex as female. In addition, pursuant to the order of the Amsterdam Regional Court, she was issued with a birth certificate showing her new name and sex by the Registrar of Births in The Hague.

However, following a request that her original birth certificate in the United Kingdom be amended to record her sex as female, Miss Horsham was informed by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys that it was not possible under English law to add new information to a birth certificate.

the recognition in law of post-operative gender status. In particular, the court did not indicate that there was as yet any common approach as to how to address the repercussions which the legal recognition of a change of sex might entail for other areas of law such as marriage, filiation, private or data protection, or the inheritance of property. It was noted that the recognition of a change of sex might be dealt with by law to prevent his or her pre-operative gender.

Accordingly, the Court was not persuaded to depart from its decision in the aforementioned cases and concluded that the respondent state could no longer rely on a margin of appreciation to defend continuing its refusal to recognise in law a transsexual's post-operative gender identity.

minimise intrusive inquiries as to the applicants' pre-operative status, for example by allowing transsexuals to be issued with driving licences and other types of official documents in their new name and gender.

The Court noted that despite its statements in the *Rees* and *Cossey* cases on the importance of keeping the need for appropriate legal measures in that area under review, it appeared that the respondent state had not taken any steps to do so.

Given the increased social acceptance of transsexualism and the increased recognition of the problems which post-operative transsexuals encountered, the Court reiterated that contracting states needed to keep that area under review.

of Appeal

claim by volunteer appropriate adult

**Constable of the City of London v. Lord Justice**

as to whether the police officer trained help in the voluntary work and interviews as well as a matter of trial.

On March 24, 1994 the plaintiff signed, at the request of police officers, a confidentiality agreement. The plaintiff claimed that she was not offered counselling or support until January 1995 after West had committed suicide in custody. The plaintiff subsequently gave evidence at the trial for the murder of Rosemary West, wife of Frederick.

Law Report September 4, 1998

Leaving verdicts to coroner's jury

**Regina v Inner London South District Coroner, Ex parte Douglas-Williams**

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Thorpe (Judgment July 30)

A coroner had a discretion not to leave all possible verdicts on the evidence to the jury if that would be merely cost and overburden them. It was sufficient if he left to the jury those verdicts which realistically reflected the thrust of the evidence as a whole.

Queen's Bench Division

Cheating in police exam is a disciplinary offence

**Regina v Chief Constable of the British Transport Police, Ex parte Farmer**

Before Mr Justice Lightham (Judgment July 30)

Assisting a fellow probationer officer in the British Transport Police to cheat in an examination was a disciplinary offence. Accordingly, the chief constable was not entitled summarily to dismiss the probationer under the conditions incorporated in the probationer's contract, since the power to do so was exercisable only where no disciplinary offence was involved.

Various liability of partner

constructive trustee

**QC and Miss Sara Cockerill for Mr Al Tajr.**

**MR JUSTICE RIX** said that Dubai sought to recover the balance of US\$50,117,562 disbursed in the form of commissions and other like payments under a bogus consultancy agreement.

It was alleged that Mr Livingstone, Dubai's former chief executive, conspired with Henry Salama and with the assistance of Anthony Amburust to steal from Mr Amburust under the terms of a contract. Mr Amburust was sued on the basis that he knowingly assisted Mr Livingstone to act in breach of his fiduciary duty.

Company

Various liability of partner

**company**

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and J. Mr t, fifth gher defen- L. QC or the defen- dent was the Jones- ving- QC or the alk.

Leaving verdicts to coroner's jury

**whether to leave a verdict.** The strength of the evidence was not the only consideration and in relation to trial in order that the acts could be definitively established before a court made a final ruling on the questions of whether of duty of care existed in the circumstances established at the trial, what form it took and whether it was breached.

His Lordship would therefore allow the appeal to the extent that paragraphs (d) and (e) of the particulars of negligence were restored.

Lord Justice Henry delivered a judgment concurring with Lord Justice Brooke.

Solicitors: Montague Harris, Dolmans.

**Regina v Inner London South District Coroner, Ex parte Douglas-Williams**

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Thorpe (Judgment July 30)

A coroner had a discretion not to leave all possible verdicts on the evidence to the jury if that would be merely cost and overburden them. It was sufficient if he left to the jury those verdicts which realistically reflected the thrust of the evidence as a whole.

A coroner conducting a complex inquest should provide the jury with a written statement of the matters which the law required in relation to each verdict and hear any submissions from lawyers on that statement before commencing his summing-up.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing the appeal of the applicant, Lisa Douglas-Williams, against the refusal of Mr Justice Laws in the Queen's Bench Division on July 31, 1997 to quash the inquest held by Sir Montague Levine and the jury's verdict of accidental death in respect of her brother, Wayne Douglas, who died in police custody in December 1995.

Mr Patrick O'Connor, QC and Mr Leslie Thomas for the applicant; Mr Alan Tyrrell, QC and Miss Sheila Phil-Evans for the coroner; Mr Michael Wood for the police.

**THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS** said that a question that was considered on the appeal was the extent of the discretion of a coroner not to leave to the jury what was on the evidence a possible verdict.

The conclusion his Lordship had come to was that so far as the evidence called before the jury was concerned a coroner should offer the approach in *R v Galbraith* (1981) 1 WLR 1039 in deciding

Sentencing for arson

**Regina v Mitchell**

Before Lord Justice Waller, Mr Justice Hidden and Judge Rivlin, QC (Judgment July 21)

When sentencing defendants convicted of arson being reckless as to whether life was endangered, the judge was required to weigh in the balance a number of factors.

Those included: the nature of the premises attacked, and whether they were known or likely to be occupied; the degree of planning, if any; the motive for the offence, including whether any individual, or the owners of the premises as such, were targeted as an act of revenge; whether any meaningful steps were taken to raise the alarm; the damage which could be expected to result from the defendant's actions and the damage which in fact resulted; and finally, the defendant's state of mind at the material time and whether the offender might continue to present a danger to his victim or the public at large.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so stated in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by

Sentencing for arson

**Nicholas Charles Mitchell** against a sentence of six years imprisonment, imposed in December 1997 at Stafford Crown Court by Judge Perrett, QC, on his plea of guilty to an offence of arson, being reckless as to whether life was endangered.

Mr Philip Noble, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant.

**JUDGE RIVLIN**, giving the judgment of the court, said that Mr Noble had asked the court to consider *Attorney-General's Reference (No 5 of 1993)* (1994) Cr App R (S) 201; *R v Potts* (1996) 2 Cr App R (S) 291; *R v Parker* (1997) 1 Cr App R (S) 259; *Attorney-General's Reference (No 35 of 1996)* (1997) 1 Cr App R (S) 50; and *Attorney-General's Reference (No 61 of 1996)* (1997) 2 Cr App R (S) 316.

Their Lordships had also considered and derived assistance from a number of other cases, in which the problem of the defendant's mental state had featured, and which, when taken together, provided further useful guidance: *R v Blunsden* (1988) 10 Cr App R (S) 139; *R v Atkins* (1989) 11 Cr App R (S) 524; *R v McCann* (1994) 15 Cr App R (S) 10; *R v Sparks* (1994) 16 Cr App R (S) 393; and *Attorney-General's Reference (No 1 of 1997)* (1998) 1 Cr App R (S) 54.

The sentencing judge had regarded it as a very serious case and was justified in doing so.

The appellant had set fire to his council flat, evincing an element of grudge or revenge against the council who owned the flats and causing risk and alarm to other members of the public. The offence was premeditated and had involved considerable preparation.

The appellant was a man with grave personal problems, leaving him with feelings of hopelessness and desperation and, although that must attract a measure of sympathy, it was impossible to say of him with any degree of confidence that he no longer represented a risk to the community.

Having reviewed the authorities and considered Mr Noble's submissions, the defendant's mental state had featured, and which, when taken together, provided further useful guidance: *R v Blunsden* (1988) 10 Cr App R (S) 139; *R v Atkins* (1989) 11 Cr App R (S) 524; *R v McCann* (1994) 15 Cr App R (S) 10; *R v Sparks* (1994) 16 Cr App R (S) 393; and *Attorney-General's Reference (No 1 of 1997)* (1998) 1 Cr App R (S) 54.

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NEWS

Seize chance of peace, says Clinton

President Clinton used his second extraordinary visit to Northern Ireland to celebrate the "magic" that had brought the Province to the cusp of peace and to implore its people to seize a chance that would never come again.

He and his wife paid an emotional visit to Omagh, where they grieved with those wounded and bereaved in the recent bomb blast and thanked them for "standing up in the face of such a soul-searching loss and restating your determination to walk the road of peace".

Jet crash claims all 229 on board

Rescuers gave up hope of finding survivors from the Swissair jet that crashed off Nova Scotia with 229 people aboard. The pilot of the flight from New York to Geneva had reported dense smoke in the cockpit.

Many hands at work

They were only tiny fingers, but it took 21 pairs of hands to free 10-month-old Claudie Francis when she decided to stick them down the plughole.

Gene crops backing

Genetically modified crops have the potential to feed the booming population of the 21st century and should be encouraged, the Royal Society said.

Antibiotics alert

Big cuts in the use of antibiotics were urged to suppress the emergence of "superbugs" that could eventually make diseases such as meningitis and tuberculosis untreatable.

Film tells bloody truth

Steven Spielberg explained that he used extreme violence in his Second World War film to be true to what his father's generation had been through.

Oh no we didn't

A pantomime is threatening to become a courtroom drama because troupes of amateur actors have each accused the other of stealing their name.

Lib Dems look ahead

Paddy Ashdown's mid-term manifesto proposed compulsory second pensions, measures to spare ten million paying tax and the creation of neighbourhood trusts to run schools.

'Stream pupils at 5'

Pupils as young as five should be put into streams at school, based partly on a test they must take within weeks of starting, a Schools Minister said.

Round two for Yeltsin

President Yeltsin squares up for his second bruising encounter this week with the opposition-led parliament, which is expected again to reject his nomination for Prime Minister.

Jobs distraction

City firms are distracting high-flyers at Cambridge by making job offers before students have started their final year, a careers officer claimed.

EMU regrets

Turmoil on the world's financial markets has prompted second thoughts in Denmark and Sweden about the wisdom of their decision to stay out of the European single currency.

Art bridges gulf

The son of the woman who fought a long battle against the Thatcher Government for prescribing the Pill to underage girls without parental knowledge has painted the former Prime Minister's portrait.

Shells shatter hopes

President Slobodan Milosevic's talk of a three-year peace framework in Kosovo was proved shallow by shelling in two previously untouched areas.

Thief catches penalty from goalkeeper

The Sheffield Wednesday goalkeeper Kevin Pressman was hailed as the man who lets nothing past him when he arrested the thief who had stolen his Mercedes after chasing him for miles by car and foot. He followed his car through country roads of north Derbyshire, giving a running commentary to police from his mobile phone.



President Clinton and Tony Blair in high spirits at the ground-breaking ceremony for an educational centre in Belfast. Pages 1-3, 10, 21

BUSINESS

Forecourt link-up: The oil giant is to link its petrol operations in Europe with those of Texaco in response to competition and excess capacity.

Looking down: Enterprise Oil gave warning that it may cut its dividend as part of a drastic series of preparations for an extended period of low oil prices.

Booking in: Robert Peel, ousted as chief executive of Thistle Hotels in November, is to take over the management of 30 of Thistle's smaller properties.

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 117.1 to close at 5118.7. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 105.0 to 104.4 after a rise from \$1.6696 to \$1.6814 but a fall from DM2.9235 to DM2.9001.

SPORT

Football: Proposals for a European superleague took a new twist with the promise of places for ten Premiership clubs and multimillion-pound incentives.

Tennis: Greg Rusedzki saved one match point before completing a five-set victory over Bohdan Ulihrach in the second round of the US Open.

Cricket: David Lloyd, the England coach, received a severe reprimand from the England and Wales Cricket Board for questioning the action of the Sri Lankan offspinner, Muttiah Muralitharan.

Rugby union: Referees who officiate in the unauthorised matches at Bedford and Swansea will find themselves outcast, the English and Welsh unions said.

ARTS

Edinburgh nights: The festival has saved one of its most gripping theatrical offerings till last: Luc Bondy's powerful staging of Racine's Phedre.

Gershwin celebrated: In the month of George Gershwin's centenary, Richard Morrison laments the fact that few composers have been able to span the great divide between classical and popular music as Gershwin did.

Stepping out: Harold King's latest dance company, City Ballet of London, left a mixed impression on its opening night in the Peacock Theatre.

Pop on Friday: The new Courtney Love album: the nascent promise of British soul; Caitlin Moran on the Reading Festival.

FEATURES

Autumn spending: Jane Shilling abandons hope of an Indian summer and starts acquiring a winter-warmer wardrobe.

Monroe and Miller: For Arthur Miller, his wife Marilyn's infidelity with Yves Montand marked the end of their marriage. The final extract from Barbara Learning's book.

Full disclosure: "Most people are interested in sex as a voyeur or practitioner and we are not ashamed about that." Dawn Airey, Channel 5's programme director, explains her channel's upfront attitude.

Big bang: "The ITV companies' commitment to providing quality news throughout the day should be carefully monitored." Raymond Snoddy on the last songs of News at Ten.

Read on: Can the introduction of a literacy hour to primary schools really work? David Tyder reports on David Blunkett's hopes for a new initiative.

Russia's financial crisis is so deep, its Government so precarious and its people so discouraged that it is hard to discern any light at the end of the tunnel - The Moscow Times



TOMORROW IN THE SATURDAY TIMES

KELLY'S HEROES From Irvine Welsh to Balzac... Kelly Macdonald's cinematic progress

GRUNGE HILL meg's wicked back-to-school guide



EDUCATION

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THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,888

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-27.

- ACROSS
1 Out of harmony with a return of British rule (4).
3 It says one can go on common land (5,5).
9 See through spray (4).
10 Make-up artist is introduced to old apprentice (10).
12 Half-covered light put back as illumination for landing (5,4).
14 The short cut into courtyard is drier (7,5).
18 Not including corporal, say, and injured batman out of action (3-9).
21 I put on weight in the invigorating air (5).
22 Well-bred hee providing money for royalty (5,4).
24 Too honourable for directors, to be frank (5,5).

SEALERS UNSCREW ASSOCIATE RABBIT DAEGUAOCH OSIER HOISGOTCH WLP ERENTI ASTICRINTIME SNTI N CATHETERINBARB D BALIAGLAVADITTO BILIAARORTT ATLASRECURRENT LALAEAL DECIDES VIANGTZE

Times Two Crossword, page 52

AA INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions. UK Weather - All regions 0336 444 910. National Motorways 0336 401 746.

Weather by Fax. 0336 411 214. 153 destinations world wide.

World City Weather. 0336 411 214. 153 destinations world wide.

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HOURS OF DARKNESS. Sun sets: 6:18 am. Sun sets: 7:41 pm.

Full moon September 6. London 7.41 pm to 5.19 am. Bristol 7.50 pm to 6.29 am.

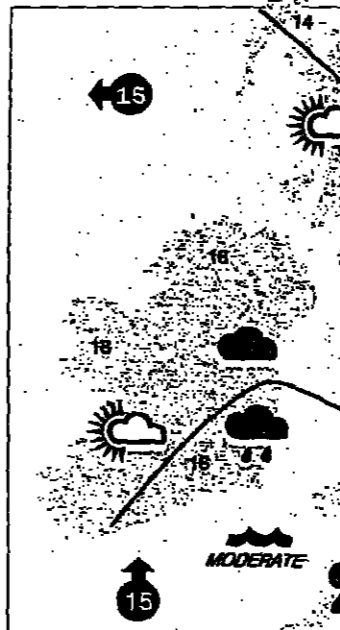
FORECAST

General: Eastern Scotland will be foggy with rain. Western Scotland will be dry with some sunshine. Northern Ireland will also have some sunshine. Rain, drizzle with rain.

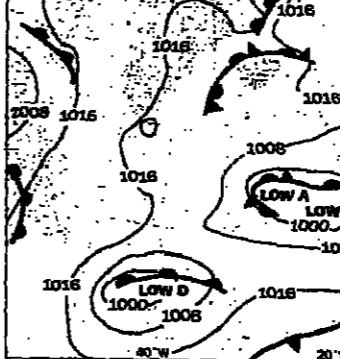
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY. 24 hrs to 5 pm: b= bright; c= cloud; d= drizzle; ds= dust storm; du= dull; f= fog; g= gale; h= hail.

ABROAD. Apaco 23 84 s. Cologne 18 64 i. Madrid 30 86 s. Rome 29 84 s. Majorca 30 86 s. S. Paulo 23 73 i.

MOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: lows A, B and C will merge, moving north and rising; low D will deepen and run northeast. High E will drift south with little change, while high F declines.



HIGH TIDES. TODAY Aberdeen AM 11.51 HT 11.51 PM 11.51.

TODAY. Aberdeen AM 11.51 HT 11.51 PM 11.51. Lowest: 7.30. Highest: 11.58.

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Great Malvern, Worcestershire, 24C (75F); lowest day max: Wick, Highland, 12C (54F); highest rainfall: Hastings, East Sussex, 0.97in; highest sunshine: Salcombe, Devon, 10.2hr.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING. Recycled paper made up 41% of the mass material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

WORK DAYS LOST DUE TO HEAT. None, if you've installed Toshiba.

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TV LISTINGS. Preview: Music veterans recall their times with the Mamas and the Papas and Lovin' Spoonful in Rock Family Trees (BBC2, 11.15pm). Review: Paul Hoggart examines Selfridges as a microcosm of humanity. Pages 50, 51.

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY. European Shell to po. Enterprise.

# THE TIMES

INSIDE SECTION  
**2**  
TODAY



## BUSINESS

Oil venture targets the motorists  
**PAGE 31**



## ARTS

Courtney bares her soul for her art  
**PAGES 34-37**



## MEDIA

How to make your name in newspapers  
**PAGES 38-41**

**SWEDEN IN AWE OF OWEN**  
Pages 45-52

BUSINESS EDITOR *Patience Wheatcroft*

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 4 1998

## European refining and marketing link

# Shell and Texaco to pool resources

By CARL MORTSHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

SHELL and Texaco have agreed to pool their refining and marketing interests in Europe but the attempt by Shell to bolster its position as the leading marketer of oil products could fall foul of competition authorities in key markets. Their combined interests in the UK would include about 2,900 petrol stations with a 22 per cent market share, pushing Esso into second place. The two oil majors said yesterday that they had signed a non-binding memorandum of understanding to create a downstream alliance to achieve savings of \$200 million (about £119 million) per year. Shell will take the lion's share of the joint venture with an 88 per cent interest but the Anglo-Dutch group has agreed to allow the Texaco brand to remain in place. Stitching together the two oil products businesses is likely to lead to thousands of job losses, with a large proportion in the UK where Texaco's European headquarters is based.

Shell confirmed yesterday that the \$200 million in savings would come from combining administrative and operational functions. Texaco said that the UK accounted for 2,830 staff out of its 4,300 European downstream payroll. Shell employs 25,000 across Europe. Shell has long declared its intention to take the No.1 slot in the UK but saw its ambitions frustrated by Esso's attempt to grab market share with its Pricewatch campaign.

Shell said yesterday that the aim was to improve shareholders' returns and value for customers. However, the venture, which could take almost a year to finalise, is likely to attract the unwelcome attention of the Office of Fair Trading and the European Commission. Analysts speculated yesterday that a third party was waiting in the wings to take part in the alliance either as a buyer of petrol stations or in the closure of a refinery. According to analysts at

Wood Mackenzie, Shell will have 30 per cent of the wholesale market for gasoline in the UK, well above the 25 per cent trigger for an OFT inquiry, but the consultants see bigger problems abroad. "This deal has a lot of questions that need to be answered. It would take Shell's market share to levels which are not sustainable." Shell will end up with 42 per cent of the Dutch petrol retailing market, 32 per cent of the market in Ireland, a similar percentage in Luxembourg and 28 per cent in Norway, Denmark and Belgium. Wood Mackenzie reckons the partnership is not ideal and not as bold as the BP/Mobil joint venture. Texaco has a significant presence in only eight countries and no presence in key markets such as Germany, France and Italy. The consultants also point out that the venture does nothing to reduce Shell's overexposure to refining.

A glut of petrol and fuel oil in Europe and the United States is trimming the already thin refining margins of oil companies. Stocks of fuel oil are at record levels at a time when buyers are normally building up for the winter while gasoline production is at an all-time high, causing many European refiners to cut their runs. Texaco will add its refinery in South Wales to Shell's UK exposure - the Anglo-Dutch company is closing its Shell Haven operation. In The Netherlands, Shell faces further problems as Texaco owns 35 per cent of BP's Nerebo refinery which Wood Mackenzie yesterday described as massive but uncompetitive. Big oil companies received a welcome lift yesterday as the crude oil price jumped above \$13 for the first time in a month as oil traders began to speculate that Russia's 2.5 million barrels per day of oil exports might be threatened by the financial crisis.

Commentary, page 29  
Oil blend, page 31



## Lehman deal for ousted Thistle chief

By DOMINIC WALSH

ROBERT PEEL, who was ousted as chief executive of Thistle Hotels in November, is to take over the management of 30 of Thistle's smaller properties under a deal announced yesterday. As *The Times* predicted last week, Lehman Brothers, the US investment bank, is buying a package of 30 provincial hotels for £66 million. Mr Peel's new AIM-listed vehicle, Peel Hotels, is to run the hotels under a management agreement with Lehman.

Mr Peel has an option to purchase two of the hotels, the Golden Lion in Leeds, where he plans to set up his headquarters, and the Hospitality Inn in Newcastle. In addition, the US firm is to take warrants over 500,000 new Peel shares, equal to 10 per cent of its ordinary shares, exercisable at 125p within three years.

The shares, placed at 25p in March, gained 10p yesterday to 142.5p. It is one of the few stocks to have escaped the carnage that has hit hotel stocks amid fears of an economic downturn. Mr Peel, whose new company focuses on the three-star market, said: "In a recessionary environment it tends to be the less expensive hotels that perform better."

Industry sources believe that Mr Peel, who received a £700,000 payoff from Thistle, will seek to lure Norbert Petersen, former senior operations director at Thistle, to bolster his management team.

For Thistle, the deal is a consolation prize after the collapse last month of talks to sell the entire company to Nomura International for around £1.7 billion. Together with bank borrowings, the proceeds will be used to return an estimated £150 million to £200 million to shareholders. Further details are expected next week when Thistle reports its half-year results.

Yesterday's sale will force Thistle to take a charge against its full-year results as the 30 hotels have a net book value of £93 million. Last year they made a profit of £8.7 million.

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FTSE 100	5118.7 (-117.1)
Yield	3.28%
FTSE All Share	2378.16 (-48.59)
Nikkei	14281.24 (-115.38)
New York:	
Dow Jones	7876.81 (-105.56)
S&P Composite	980.69 (-9.78)
US RATE	
Federal Funds	5 1/8% (5%)
Long bond	102 1/2% (102%)
Yield	5.32% (5.34%)
LONDON MONEY	
3-month interbank	7 1/8% (7 1/8%)
Life long gilt	112.29 (111.85)
future (Dec)	
STERLING	
New York:	1.6767* (1.6702)
London:	1.6813 (1.6877)
DM	2.2892 (2.2922)
FF	9.7200 (9.7988)
SF	2.3818 (2.4081)
Yen	225.16 (231.14)
£ Index	104.4 (105.0)
DOLLAR	
London:	1.7276* (1.7490)
DM	3.7800* (3.8850)
SF	1.4197* (1.4427)
Yen	134.80* (137.75)
\$ Index	110.8 (112.3)
Tokyo close	Yen 135.69
NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Nov)	\$13.20 (\$12.75)
GOLD	
London close	\$283.95 (\$280.15)

## Zurich to sell reinsurer

ZURICH GROUP, the Swiss insurer that next week completes its £22 billion merger with British American Financial Services, is poised to sell its London-based reinsurance business to a management team backed by Candover. The buyout specialist (Gavin Lumsden writes) Candover yesterday confirmed it has been granted a limited period of exclusivity to negotiate the purchase of Zurich Re London (ZRL). It is believed to have offered £300 million for ZRL, which employs 225 people and focuses on the highly competitive marine and aviation markets. Analysts said the price, at 1.5 times asset value, was "chunky".

## Enterprise braced for lean spell

By CARL MORTSHED



Jungels: three-point plan

ENTERPRISE OIL has given warning that it might cut its dividend as part of a drastic series of measures aimed at preparing the company for an extended period of low oil prices. Shares in the exploration group lost 12 per cent of their value yesterday as the company painted a bleak forecast for the industry. Pierre Jungels, chief executive, said: "We cannot bank on higher oil prices in the foreseeable future. We must bring our exploration budget down and, more importantly, we must improve our success rate." Graham Hearne, chairman, revealed a fall in net profit from

£80 million to £45 million in the half year to June. The company is maintaining the half-year payout at 6.9p but Alan Marshall, oil analyst at Flemings, expects the full-year dividend, at an estimated cost of £90 million, to be cut substantially. Mr Jungels said the company had put in train a three-point plan to deliver growth even if the oil price remained below \$15 per barrel. In addition to slashing exploration spending, Enterprise plans to reduce operating costs by 50p per barrel, contributing a saving of £60 million a year. Finally, asset swaps with partners will focus its efforts increasing

its ownership in key assets and reducing costs. Mr Jungels called for collaboration in reducing the overheads burden. He predicted that operating costs could be reduced if companies stopped double-manning when they shared ownership of a field. He said that Enterprise's target of 300,000 barrels per day of production could still be achieved by 2000 after cutting the exploration budget from £180 million to £130 million. Operations in Bulgaria and Romania are likely to go, as will Vietnam and Cambodia.

Tempus, page 30

## Wray cashes in £9.2m stake

By GEORGE SIVELL

NIGEL WRAY, the entrepreneur, has raised £9.2 million through the sale of almost half of his stake in Burford Holdings, the property company where he is chairman. Mr Wray has sold ten million shares at 92p each, saying he wished to raise funds to invest in his other business interests. These include a majority shareholding in Nottingham Forest Football Club, ownership of Saracens, the Rugby club, a non-executive directorship of Chorion (formerly Trocadero). He has also become involved in Carlisle, the new stock market vehicle of Michael Ashcroft. Mr Wray said, however, that he would hold on to his remaining 11.6 million shares, which represented 2.73 per cent of Burford. The shares rose 1p to 95p in response. They have fallen from a

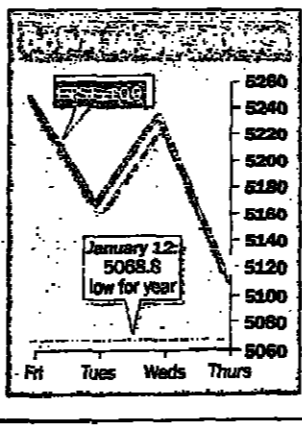
12-month low of 132p in April. Last year Nick Leslau, Mr Wray's former partner, stood down as chief executive of Burford. Burford also announced a 25 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £8.8 million for the first half of the year. Earnings per share rose 49 per cent to 2.14p and the half year dividend rises 9.5 per cent to 1.15p. Mr Wray said: "As ever, we continue to strive to increase shareholder value, and we look forward to reporting a satisfactory outcome at the year-end." Chorion, the former Trocadero company that now leases the West End site from Burford, unveiled a return to the black of £621,000 for the half year to end June, from losses of £465,000 this time last year. Earnings were 0.10p a share against losses of 0.16p. Shares in Chorion rose 1/2p to 15p.

## Markets fall back as investors take profits

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

LEADING stock markets slumped again yesterday as investors used the recent bounce in prices to take profits amid ongoing nervousness about prospects for the world economy. In London, the FTSE 100 index fell 117.1 points to close at 5,118.7, its lowest level for seven months. All the gains of this year have now been wiped out. On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average rapidly dropped by 130 points after the opening and had slipped to a loss of 140.8 to 7,641.54 at mid-session. The mood was undermined by the continuing political crisis in Russia and a sharp slide in the rouble, gloomy announcements from two leading Japanese companies and the de facto devaluation of the Colombian peso late on Wednesday. In addition, investors

were rattled by a fall in the dollar to a nine-month low against the mark and a ten-week low against the yen. In Russia, the rouble was fixed at 13,460B to the dollar but was later quoted at 16,000/22,000 to the dollar as the stand-off between President Yeltsin and the Duma over the appointment of a new government continued. As of yesterday, the value of the dollar against the rouble has tripled in the space of three weeks. In Japan, Hitachi issued an earnings warning and Toa Steel said that it was heading towards liquidation, thought to be the biggest failure of a Japanese manufacturer since the Second World War. In Britain, a survey of service industries by the Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply showed that services were still growing in August but at the slowest rate since the survey began in July, 1996. Companies blamed the strength of the pound, high interest rates and uncertainty about the turmoil in world markets.



Commentary, page 29

## Meriwether fund plummets by 44%

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

LONG-TERM Capital Management, a \$4 billion (£2.4 billion) investment fund administered by John Meriwether, the former vice-chairman of Salomon Brothers, has lost 44 per cent of its net assets in the past month as markets plunged around the world. The fund's investors include Myron Scholes and Robert Merton, the two economists who won a Nobel Prize for

their widely celebrated options pricing model. Long-term Capital lost \$1.8 billion on investments around the world. The loss for the year so far stands at 52 per cent of net assets. Mr Meriwether shot to fame as one of the card players featured in the book *Liar's Poker*, which vividly described the excesses of Wall Street in the 1980s, who bet up to \$1 million on the serial numbers on dollar bills. He left Salomon in 1991 after taking

responsibility for a bond trading scandal and set up his own money management company, drawing on his many Wall Street contacts. Mr Meriwether said: "August has been very painful for all of us." The losses have been particularly painful for Mr Meriwether, the two Nobel laureates, and two other former Salomon traders who own a third of the fund's net assets. Surprisingly, the biggest losses do not stem from Russian or Asian expo-

sure. More than 80 per cent of the losses were incurred by interest rate bets in Group of Seven countries. These so-called arbitrage bets are similar to Mr Meriwether's ground-breaking mathematical work at Salomon. Russia accounted for only 10 per cent and overall emerging markets losses added up to 16 per cent. Mr Meriwether has sent an eight-page letter to all investors, explaining the losses and trying to stop them from pulling out their money.

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# Floored by Hurricane Boris

Hurricane Boris made another frenzied circuit of the Atlantic seaboard yesterday. And this vortex of financial confidence shows no signs of blowing itself out yet.

Another milestone was passed in London and New York, as all the share price gains since the first day of the year were finally eliminated. In London, the next day will surely take the FTSE 100 index to a new low for the year and threaten the 5,000 mark. In New York, the equivalent S&P Composite index has already tumbled heading below 1,000.

The best that can be said is that the main Far Eastern markets have decoupled a bit, thanks to direct government intervention. In Tokyo, however, this departure could prove as temporary as Russia's government.

The importance of Russia's financial implosion was emphasised by the inability of the visiting Bill Clinton to do the slightest thing about it. That is embarrassing even for one who is by now used to daily embarrassment.

This is chaos: tangible, convincing chaos. The rouble has halved in value. Some food prices are doubling on the streets. Oil exports are drying up because banks cannot meet port dues.

Turmoil embroiling leaders who are household names evidently carries emotional messages to denizens of London and Wall Street that even the compa-

able meltdown in Indonesia failed to convey to the markets of the West. The rupiah dropped 80 per cent, people had to return to the villages for food and programs bloodied the streets. As rising bond prices produced unexpected leaps in share prices, however, it all seemed so far away.

Hurricane Boris will keep blowing until Russia has a new government. But its energy cannot propel Western markets indefinitely.

Here lies the chance of a return to stability. Events closer to home can count. The most immediate is tonight's meeting of Kiichi Miyazawa, Japan's veteran Finance Minister, with his American counterpart and with Alan Greenspan, the world's most reassuring central banker.

Let us hope the talks do not just end with a wringing of hands and injunctions to Japan to reflate and close down its banks simultaneously.

Rather, we need some gnomish comments from Mr Greenspan to the effect that the Fed stands ready to cut interest rates at the first sign of a threat to demand in the US economy. We do not need a co-ordinated rate cut, if only because the Bank of Japan has pre-

vious little left to cut. The second guide will be the trend of corporate earnings and prospects as the reporting season hots up. In London, this starts on Monday and could exercise more influence than usual on America's Labour Day holiday. The auguries are not good.

Better hope that Wall Street's big spenders will return from the long weekend as buoyantly as they did 12 months ago.

## COMMENTARY by our City Editor

ing up the Deputy Prime Minister's Jaguar at a Shell station will not bring savings for the public purse.

The vigour has now ebbed from the petrol price war that was initiated by the supermarkets' brazen entry into the marketplace. Now those who are left on the battlefield are allowing the slump in oil prices to fatten up their forecourt margins. This is scant compensation for those, like Shell and Texaco, whose interests run from the messy upstream business of producing oil to the increasingly glossy downstream places that sell petrol alongside pizzas. But the \$12 barrel is wonderful news for the likes of Tesco and Asda, which are now raking in the profits from an exercise that originally came close to being a loss leader.

The supermarkets' arrival has drastically reshaped petrol retailing, driving out the independents with the same ferocity that has exterminated thousands of butch-

ers, bakers and fishmongers around the country. The integrated oil companies have had to retaliate by turning their petrol stations into supermarkets, sometimes in partnership with established grocers such as Budgens, sometimes alone. Heron has even been experimenting with a grocery home delivery service, thereby enabling its customers to forgo buying any petrol.

Together, Shell and Texaco will continue the trend towards turning petrol stations into glitzy retail emporiums, just as the merged BP and Amoco will. These establishments need heavy passing trade to justify their overheads and there is a growing risk that rural localities will find themselves increasingly distant from fuel suppliers. Even Mr Prescott is prepared to concede that in some parts of the country a private car is an essential, yet the petrol for those vehicles is likely to become harder to reach.

The competition authorities in

Europe and Britain will undoubtedly investigate this latest coupling and could demand some divestments. But it is the Transport White Paper, when it belatedly arrives, which might encourage the odd independent to open up a simple petrol station right where local customers might want it.

### SFO makes heavy work of Wickes

The new team at Wickes has hammered together a set of results which demonstrates why shareholders were right to believe two years ago that there was a basically sound business lying behind the extraordinarily cooked books.

Yet rejoicing over first-half profits of £11.5 million underlines just how distorted were accounts which overstated profits by a massive £50 million. The directors who were in office during those apparently fat years fed well on the company: chairman Henry Sweetbaum's 1995 remuneration topped £1.2 million. He and his then finance director have since been prevailed upon to hand back part of the generous bonus they pocketed, yet no

one has been truly called to account for the scandal.

It was November 1996 when the Serious Fraud Office began poring over the matter and its investigations apparently continue. The accounting system which Wickes adopted was undoubtedly complicated but the SFO should surely have unravelled it by now.

No one is suggesting that there have been accounting irregularities at Marchpole, but the company's apparently late discovery of vanishing margins did raise some eyebrows yesterday. In the label-conscious fashion market, YSL priests seem to allow plenty of room for profit. Marchpole was talking gleefully of such things so recently that yesterday's gloomy news left some investors feeling aggrieved.

### Gamble at Lloyd's

THERE are still some people who wish to be Lloyd's names. Despite the horrors, they want the right to risk their all and have been agitated at the prospect that Lloyd's would freeze them out in favour of corporate capital. Well, now they can rest easy. Lloyd's chairman, Max Taylor, has written to Michael Deeny, chairman of the Association of Lloyd's Names, assuring him that he and fellow gamblers will continue to be welcome. At least they know the downside now.



Bill Grimsey, chief executive of Wickes, the DIY chain, which recorded a 20 per cent rise in sales at its refurbished stores

## Wickes records strong growth since revamp

By PAUL DURMAN

INVESTORS in Wickes took heart yesterday from evidence that the DIY chain's new store format is producing a 20 per cent uplift in like-for-like sales (see Commentary this page).

Bill Grimsey, chief executive, said he could see no reason why Wickes should not be able to repeat this improvement as it refurbishes the rest of its 123 stores. Shares in Wickes, which have dropped from more than 340p in June, recovered 23p to end the day at 236½p.

The new format stores, the first six of which opened in April, set out to offer a more women-friendly environment, a wider choice of paints, lighting and floor coverings, and better service.

So far, Wickes seems to be achieving its aim of winning a bigger share of the decorating market, while retaining its tra-

ditionally strong position in building materials.

Mr Grimsey said Wickes would spend another £65 million refurbishing its stores over the next three years. It plans to re-fit 36 next year in addition to its store opening programme.

Wickes was reporting first-half pre-tax profits of £11.5 million, after losing £14.7 million in the same period last year, mainly because of a £16 million write-off of goodwill. Operating profits from the continuing business also improved strongly from £5.9 million to £10.4 million.

The group's sales increased from £254.9 million to £267.9 million, which included like-for-like sales growth of 5.1 per cent. The first eight weeks trading of the second half showed a 6.9 per cent improvement in like-for-likes, helped by a summer sale of kitchens and conservatories.

With cash of more than £30 million, Mr Grimsey said it was "just ridiculous" that the stock market values Wickes at only £182 million even after yesterday's share price rise.

Wickes is paying an interim dividend of 2p, the first since the accounting scandal that is still being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office.

## Marley plans to return £40m to shareholders

By PAUL DURMAN

MARLEY, the bricks and tiles group whose shares have been on the slide for most of the past four years, is to return about £40 million to shareholders.

The company yesterday reported a 13 per cent increase in first-half pre-tax profits to £27.6 million, although this was flattered by excluding the £15 million loss on its disposal of two US businesses.

Marley achieved a sharp profits improvement in the UK, making £11 million (£6.4 million) thanks to a strong first quarter for bricks, blocks and tiles, with higher prices and further cost savings. The North American business

### Slough Estates chief confident

By ROBERT COLE  
CITY CORRESPONDENT

SIR NIGEL MOBBS, chairman of Slough Estates, the industrial property company, weighed in with a strong message of support for the sector yesterday. He said: "The property sector is fundamentally sound with high occupancy, improving rents and a good supply and demand balance."

The comments came as Slough reported interim pre-tax profits that slipped back from £50.5 million to £49.6 million. However, the comparative figures for 1997 were flattened by contributions from sales of investment properties and from income derived from an investment in the Candover venture capital fund. Operating profits rose 3 per cent to £71.4 million.

Slough is raising the interim dividend by more than 21 per cent to 4.125p from 3.4p. The company said that shareholders should not expect a similarly large rise with the final dividend. It promised, however, to pay at least an unchanged final, making a total of 10.25p for the full year.

Tempus, page 30

## BT to speed up Internet access

By RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

BT has launched a device to speed up access to the Internet for consumers who have long complained about the time it takes to open up Internet sites on their computers at home.

The BT Highway service will also allow householders to use their telephone line at the same time as surfing the Internet or sending e-mail.

A range of BT Highway services aimed at consumers and small businesses will be launched on September 15. Afshin Mohebbi, managing director of BT's business division, said his aim was to have BT Highway in every household within five years.

Already 4,500 BT engineers have been trained to instal the new service, which will be available across 90 per cent of the UK from the outset.

The Highway service, BT said, transforms a customer's existing telephone line into "a new, fast, reliable and multifunctional digital Internet and multimedia connection."

BT claims that Highway can connect with the Internet in two seconds.

Consumers will need an ISDN card for their PC costing around £50 and there will be an installation charge of £16.33 for upgrading the line. The monthly rental will be £40 which includes a £15 monthly free call allowance.

### Confident Isotron advances

Isotron, the sterilisation group, raised profits before tax by 19 per cent to £5.4 million in the year to June 30 on sales up 13 per cent to £13.4 million.

Earnings rose from 25.5p to 32.3p and the total dividend rises 10 per cent to 6.98p a share.

The company says that the current year has started well. The shares rose 2½p to 510p.

### Avonside up

Avonside, the building services group, increased pre-tax profits from £1.07 million to £1.74 million in the six months to June 30 on sales up from £40.15 million to £41.44 million. The half-year dividend rises from 0.50p to 0.75p out of earnings up from 1.77p to 2.80p. The shares rose 2p to 37½p.

### Grafton ahead

Grafton, the building products group that recently took over British Dredging, raised pre-tax profits by 28 per cent to £19.1 million (£8 million) in the six months to June 30 on sales up 32 per cent to £154 million. The half-year dividend rises 24 per cent to 10.5p out of earnings up 26 per cent to 47.6p.

### E&G drops

Estates & General, the property group, saw a fall in pre-tax profits from £1.1 million to £604,000 in the six months to June 30. The group, however, suffered from the absence of the previous first half's £443,000 profit on the sale of investment properties. Earnings fell from 4.1p to 2.1p but the half-year dividend rises 67 per cent to 0.5p a share.

### Plantation focus

Plantation & General Investments, the African investment group chaired by Rupert Pennant-Rea, is raising £10 million to help with its attempts to focus on tropical agriculture. Half-year profits rose 82 per cent to £1.6 million. Earnings were 1.9p (1.30p) in the six months to June 30.

### Abbot rises

Abbot, the oil services group, raised pre-tax profits by 22 per cent to £8.62 million in the six months to June 30 on sales up 24 per cent to £89.8 million. Earnings rose 23 per cent to 4.3p and the half-year dividend rises 25 per cent to 1p. The company believes the current volatility in its market will provide good opportunities for growth.

## Dispute adds up to blocking tactics

By ROBERT BRUCE

THE row that has led to the London Investment Banking Association (Liba) reaching agreements with the British Venture Capital Association, enabling the principles of capping and proportionate liability to be accepted as an official and universal code of practice.

Now the same process of negotiating an agreement has started with the investment banks. But negotiations have been slow and accountancy firms and investment banks are using the negotiations over the terms of engagement for individual due diligence assignments as a tactic in this process.

It is not uncommon now for six-figure sums to be spent on the terms of en-

gagement talks, said one accountant. This tactic so enraged one member of Liba's committee that the letter to the Office of Fair Trading was sent off. "They are trying to rattle our cages," said one accountant.

Currently capping and other forms of limiting of liability are common at accountancy firms doing due diligence work. The normal limit for large assignments is £25 million. On smaller assignments a multiple of fees, for example, ten times fees, is common.

"There will always be jockeying for position, said one accountant. Both sides want to maximise their return for the least assumption of risk.

"But there is also a dispute about the amount of work done in due diligence cases.

Investment bankers argue that they have to rely on the accountant's work. Accountants argue that the amount of comfort depends on the amount and quality of the work that they do and suggest that often investment banks are not commissioning them to do enough to provide the degree of comfort required.

"We should either do more and more work," said one accountant, "to fulfil the expectations, or decide that it is not necessary depending on what is really needed.

"A lot of compliance work isn't worth anything," he concluded.

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CHANGING TIMES



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# Authority casts shadow over HSBC

**I**f HSBC Holdings intended yesterday to divert investors' attention from its Asian predicament with the purchase of a Canadian investment broker with net assets of C\$45 million (£17.3 million), the play did not work. Shareholders and equity analysts were interested in one thing only: the 8.91 per cent stake that the Hong Kong Monetary Authority now holds in the banking group.

You do not have to look too hard for the reasons behind HSBC's fall from grace. The stock, which accounts for one third of the Hong Kong equity market, is taken by investors as a bell-wether of the Asian markets, and the former British colony in particular. Investors who want quick exposure to these markets therefore buy HSBC. Conversely, when they want out, they sell the bank. In consequence, its share price performance tends to mirror the market as a whole, albeit after an exaggerated fashion.

**Richard Miles examines the prospects for Midland's parent after the Hong Kong Monetary Authority's big share purchase**

Ironically, HSBC derived more profits from Midland, its UK subsidiary, than Hongkong Bank in the first half of 1998. But South-East Asia is critical to the group's success, said John Leonard, banking analyst at Salomon Smith Barney. "You cannot simply discount Hong Kong to zero. HSBC normally gets a third of its revenues from

Hong Kong and has a large loan portfolio there," he said. More importantly, Asia offers the greatest growth prospects over the medium to long term. HSBC, with its massive capital base—a recent survey rated the group as the world's strongest bank—is well-placed to benefit from any flight to capital in the short term,

and consolidation developments over time. HKMA's intervention, however, is not motivated by any financial needs. The authority has shown no signs of interfering with the group's senior management or its policies. Rather, the consensus is that the HKMA has built up its near 9 per cent stake as part of a

tactical move to warn off speculators who are seeking to undermine the Hong Kong dollar's peg with its US counterpart. According to banking analysts, the speculators had gone short on the Hang Seng, the former colony's main share index, and then attacked the currency in the hope of driving down equity prices. By buying up the stock of HSBC and other large companies, the HKMA has fired a warning shot across the bows of the financial predators. "It wanted to show the speculators that they can lose money as well as

making it," said Mark Thomas of Credit Lyonnais Securities Europe. For the time being, the HKMA's strategy appears to have worked. But it leaves HSBC with a nasty overhang—what is the authority going to do with its holding? Now that it has a disclosable stake, the HKMA must reveal every transaction until its holding decreases to 3 per cent. Sliding the shares back into the market on the quiet is unrealistic. Mr Thomas believes the HKMA is under no pressure to dispose of the stake. He said: "Equities outperform cash over time, so it could hold on to the holding. What investors need is clarification." But, as Mr Thomas pointed out, this is not in the interests of the HKMA. Meanwhile, HSBC will have to live in the shadow of the authorities.

# Shell and Texaco seek new blend during troubled times

**Carl Mortishead on how big oil has targeted the motorist with European joint venture**

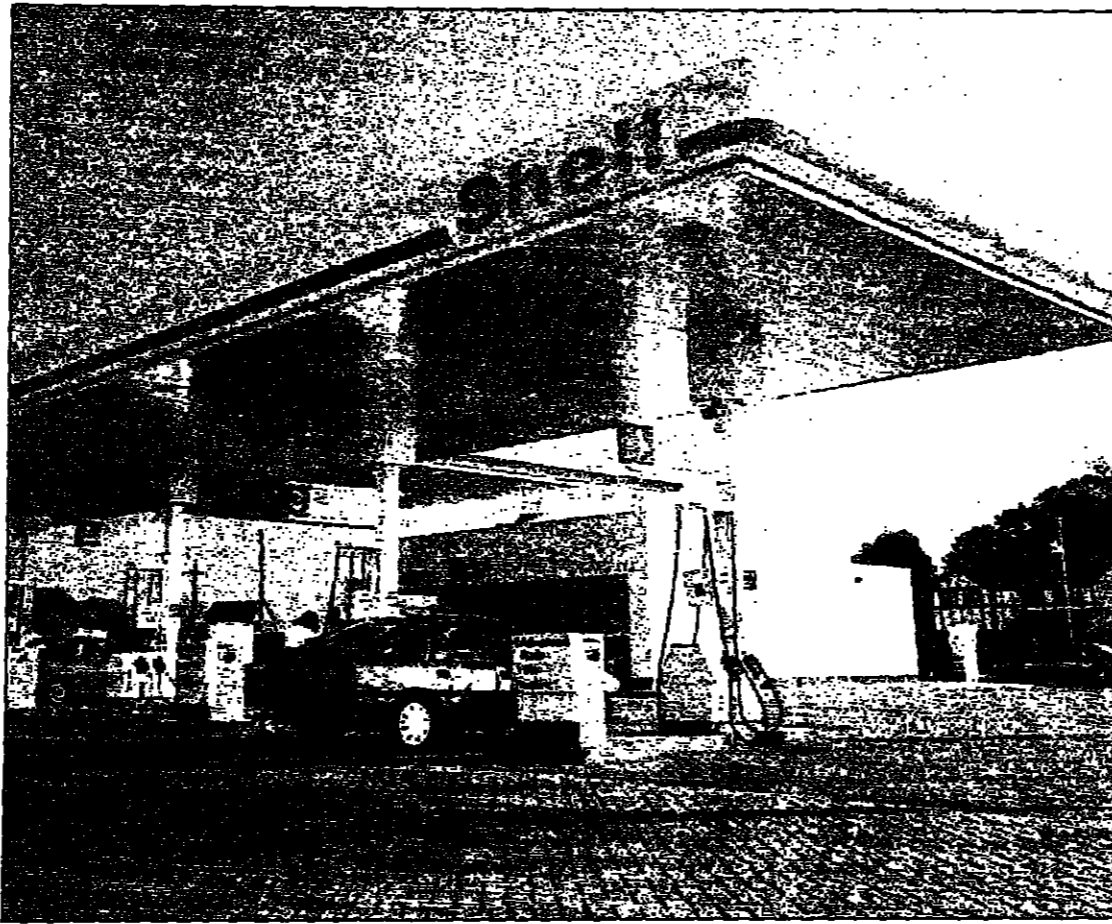
**S**tuff are biting their nails and dusting off their CVs in the bleak office towers of Shell Centre and the Texaco headquarters at Canary Wharf in London. Many have been thinking about their futures for months. Shell and Texaco announced yesterday that they were to merge their downstream European businesses, but staff of both were well aware of the talks. What they do not know is which jobs are on the line and where. Today, they are no wiser.

Shell and Texaco released the bare minimum of information about their plans. Everything, according to the two companies, has yet to be decided—which jobs are to go, which refineries are to be sold or closed, who is to manage the joint venture.

Such a level of indecision sounds odd, but this agreement has not come easily. The companies have ducked the biggest question—the brands. Unlike the BP-Mobil joint venture, where the former's logo fronts the petrol stations while Mobil's brand is on the lubricants, both Texaco's star and Shell's pecten are to remain visible to the consumer. Given the scale of Shell's domination of this alliance—the Anglo-Dutch company will take 88 per cent of the profits of the venture—one might have expected the Texaco star to disappear from European skies.

The City was not bowled over by Shell's achievement. Jürgen Lumschott of Credit Lyonnais Laing reckons the \$200 million (about £120 million) pre-tax savings are a small step forward and he is not impressed by the decision to keep Texaco's brand. "It is a sign of weakness and suggests there has not been a real meeting of minds."

In its defence, Shell would point to its US downstream joint venture, where there has been no withdrawal of brands. Last year Shell Oil, the US subsidiary, agreed to combine its downstream operations with Saudi Aramco and Texaco into a venture called Motiva.



Both Shell's pecten and Texaco's star will remain visible to European consumers despite Shell's domination of the joint venture between the companies

That followed a previous deal between Texaco and Shell on the West Coast and Mid-West, called Equilon. But the two deals are on a different scale, with savings of \$800 million annually, four times the projected savings on yesterday's European deal. Joint ventures do not come easily to Shell; the company likes to believe its culture is unique and its internally trained management second to none. Whether true or false, such an approach sits uneasily on the board of a joint venture company. But Shell is on the defensive. If the world's largest oil company is prepared to endure middle-management turmoil for the best part of a year just to achieve some £60 million in post-tax savings and a small increase in market share, times must be difficult. Indeed, a collapse in the oil price to its lowest level in real terms for 25 years has cut deep into profits earned from the wellhead. Shell's own ambitions to raise its return on capital have been blown out of the water, the target having been set 40 per cent higher than the current price of \$12.50. But a reduced price for the raw material is not helping matters downstream: margins

on refined products are plummeting in Europe and Asia; refineries are cutting their runs in an effort to remove an expanding lake of gasoline and heating oil. The industry is praying for a cold winter. City analysts say Shell earned a miserable 6 per cent return on capital employed from its European downstream businesses last year, while Texaco's 3,000 petrol stations, three lubricants plants and its interests in two refineries made a profit of less than \$100 million. In the previous year Texaco chalked up a loss. Turning that round will not be easy and may require the co-operation of third parties, not to mention regulators. According to Wood Mackenzie, the consultants, Shell will end up with 30 per cent of the wholesale gasoline market in Britain with the addition of Texaco's 190,000 barrels-per-day refinery at Pembroke in Wales. It will also raise its petrol retailing share to 22 per cent, adding 1,000 Texaco stations to Shell's 1,800 outlets, recently enlarged by the purchase of 382 Gulf stations. The European Commission will be even more exercised by the prospect of Shell-Texaco dominance in the Benelux re-

gion, particularly in The Netherlands, where Shell already has 30 per cent of the market. Selling a few petrol stations to satisfy Karel Van Miert, the competition commissioner, should be only a minor problem for the two companies. The big headache is refining a business which the Anglo-Dutch company recently said had an oversupply in Europe equivalent to 13 refineries. In agreeing to shut down its Shell Haven refinery, Shell recently made its own contribution to reducing the glut. However, the loss of 90,000 barrels of capacity is a net gain with the addition of Texaco's Pembroke facility. And in The Netherlands Texaco adds a 35 per cent interest in the Nerefco refinery, operated by BP. To Shell's huge Pernis facility, Fergus Macleod of BT Alex Brown, the investment bank, reckons that BP may be the key to success of the Shell-Texaco joint venture. "If BP agreed to close that refinery, Shell could supply the BP-Mobil joint venture in Holland." Such a deal could be sweetened by throwing in a few petrol stations, thereby reducing an excessive market

effect of throwing thousands of independent dealers out of business, volumes are much higher and unit costs are lower. Of course, Esso could spoil the Shell-Texaco party with a grab for market share, as could Tesco, the food retailer, which started the ball rolling with low-cost petrol. But with margins of between 5p and 6p per litre, Tesco is now earning profits it never dreamed of from petrol. Integrated oil companies could afford petrol price wars when oil was \$18 per barrel at the wellhead. The world is different at \$12 per barrel, and the difference needs to be made up somewhere—for big oil, the motorist is a good place to start.

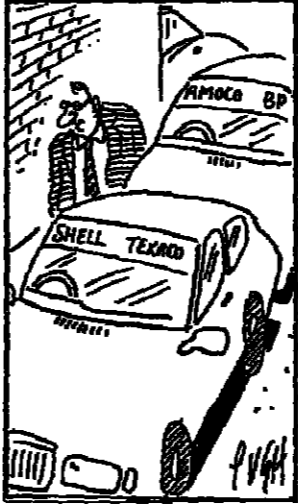
are harnessing the true potential of the Internet" gushed Mori. At the same time, Andersen Consulting offered this pearl: "The greatest barrier to Europe's success in the emerging electronic economy is a surprising hesitancy among the Continent's business leaders. European executives are still standing on the sidelines." Please, no more.

## Good cause

THE changes wrought by Ramón Pajares since he became managing director of the Savoy Group four years ago have sometimes prompted thinly veiled racist comments by people who should know better. The die-hard traditionalists responsible for sharpening their knives as Mr Pajares prepares to unveil a new bar at Claridge's in what was previously the Causerie restaurant (which, as I recall, used to turn out a pretty decent smörgåsarbord). But Savoyards should hold fire before they start lambasting the £650,000 project. Mr Pajares tells me that whereas the Causerie had only been going since the Second World War, the archives show that Claridge's had a bar for about 20 years after it first opened its doors. The return of a proper bar to London's grande dame is a very welcome development.

BEER is clearly in the blood of the Martin family. Earlier this year, Gerry Martin unveiled plans to bring his Old Monk pub company to AIM, some six years after big brother Tim launched JD Wetherspoon into the public arena. Among Old Monk's non-executive father Ray, a former Wetherspoon director who spent almost 30 years at Guinness. Meanwhile, grandfather Randall, now 92, worked for Allied Breweries, going on to run the staff social club long after he had retired. "When we go to the pub together we tend not to talk about anything else but pubs," admits Gerry. "The wives get sick of us."

Dominic Walsh



## All smiles

SMILES Brewery in Bristol could be heading for the stock market, I hear. The company, whose investors include Firkin founder David Bruce, has launched a £3.75 million share placing to allow it to buy out its two BES pub companies. It is hoping to get its shares listed on Oric in the next few months and a move up to AIM is likely within three years. Smiles was founded in 1977 by local restaurateur John Payne, who originally started brewing beer to sell in his dining room. But such was its popularity that customers started coming in with bottles and containers in which to take the stuff home and a new business was born. The latest move is being driven by Ian Williams, the accountant who bought out the brewery in 1992, and Martin Loades, the new chief executive.

For Mr Loades the move to Smiles, which has a turnover of about £7 million, represents something of a sea change—he has spent the past 18 years with Scottish & Newcastle, later as planning director for its Scottish Courage beer business (turnover £2.1 billion). "It's like leaving Ford to join a specialist carmaker like Morgan—it's a case of going from mass production to handmade," he says.

I AM delighted to report that this column has, once again, helped the City University Business School fill its BSc course in Investment and Financial Risk Management. After last year's success, course lecturer Paul Dawson decided to hold six places open for City Diary readers and the response was excellent. One candidate looks particularly promising, having made it into the top 20 of The Sunday Times Fantasy Fund Manager game. It was success in that



competition that persuaded Jayesh Manek, a two-time winner, to set up the Manek Growth Fund. Of his new student, Mr Dawson writes: "His ambitions are a little short of Mr Manek's but I trust he will contribute more than a little to the cause."

## Crosswires

BEWARE companies hearing reports about the growth of electronic commerce (a horrid phrase). Even if we overlook the fact that every single debit and credit card transaction carried out all over the world every day is technically electronic commerce (a simple fact rarely acknowledged by IT gurus), the dozens of reports compiled on the subject offer little insight. "European companies

### BUSINESS LETTERS

#### Flight of fancy by critics of Airbus Industrie

**From the Vice-President, Corporate Communications, Airbus Industrie.** Sir, Oliver August (Airbus set to take on Boeing again over TWA order, Business News, September 1) comes out with the same tired, old argument which US so-called experts and analysts of every ilk level at us each time we win an order: we sold at a loss. Could it not be that we are more efficient than our competitors, that we offer products that have quantifiable, significant benefits in operation? Oliver August refers to the recent British Airways purchase from us as "controversial". There is nothing controversial about this transaction. "The right product, at the right time, at the right price", to quote Mr Ayling of British Airways, won the day. This transaction is a profitable one for Airbus Industrie.

If Airbus Industrie were in business to "sell" at a loss, one wonders why it would have taken 25 years for the consortium to get to its present place in the market. Why would Airbus lose any sales campaign? Finally, it is worth noting that Airbus Industrie has all but two of the top ten US airlines as customers. We have made and have every intention to continue to make significant, further progress in the US market to the benefit of the airlines and their customers. Yours sincerely, ROBERT ALIZART (Vice-President, Corporate Communications), Airbus Industrie, 1 Ron Point Maurice Bellonte, 31707 Blagnac, Cedex, France. Letters can be faxed to Times Business on: 0171-782 5112

#### Conflict threatens transport policy No justification for Allied payoff

**From Mr David Perril.** Sir, Your corporate profile of the transport company Stagecoach (Business News, August 31) assigns scores of 9/10 for its financial record, 9/10 for share performance but only 6/10 for attitude to staff and 4/10 for ethical expression. The company's bus service in Cambridge, where there are cancellations due to "driver shortage", is encouraging more, rather than fewer, people to take their cars into the city. This highlights once again the conflict between commitment to profit and commitment to service which will, if not suitably addressed, be the downfall of any transport policy designed to reduce the number of private cars on our roads. Yours faithfully, DAVID PERRIL, 12 High Street, Giron, Cambridge, CB3 0PU.

**From Mr Eddie Walsh.** Sir, As a small shareholder in Allied Carpets I am disgusted at the £156,000 payoff to the departing senior operations director. The excuse given that this would prevent him from joining a rival company is a joke. The payoffs to Steve Barber and David Brut, the finance director, were not approved by shareholders who surely would not have even sanctioned giving them a couple of carpet remnants. If the accounting irregularities have been ongoing for some five years, one wonders about the competence of those who carried out due diligence at flotation in 1996. Yours faithfully, EDDIE WALSH, 7 Coiswold Court, Beeston, Nottingham, NG9 3JL.



Pajares about to unveil a new bar at Claridge's

# The true voice

## Elizabeth Lowry on Katherine Mansfield

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Sellers gain upper hand

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Table listing various alcoholic beverage stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E Ratio.

BANKS

Table listing various bank stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E Ratio.

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Table listing various brewery, pub, and restaurant stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E Ratio.

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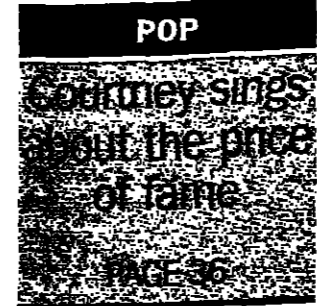
Advertisement for 'WATER' listing various water supply and treatment services.

Advertisement for 'RETAILERS, FOOD' listing various food and retail businesses.



OPINION The protean genius of Gershwin PAGE 35

THE TIMES ARTS



RECOMMENDED THIS WEEKEND

LONDON BBC PROMS: Tonight (7pm) the Chicago Symphony Orchestra led by Daniel Barenboim plays Strauss's Till Eulenspiegel, orchestral pieces by Berg, and Tchaikovsky's Patrasche symphony...

HEAVENLY HARMONY: The annual season of early music opens with a weekend of chivalry inspired sounds. A semi-staging of Handel's Orlando by the London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus under Colin Davis...

NEW WEST END SHOWS Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London. House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE Geoff Brown's choice of the latest movies. NEW RELEASES CARESS: Rarified Spanish film about unattractive love from idiosyncratic director Ventura Pons...

Good old family values

The Ancient Greeks understood dysfunctional families better than anyone. That becomes abundantly clear to anyone attending Luc Bondy's French-language production of this most searingly passionate of Greek tragedies...



Psychological depth: Valerie Dreville (left) as Phèdre and Dominique Frot as Oenone

speaks volumes. On the opening night in Edinburgh things seemed more than a little distant, but the edge may have been taken off by a lower turnout than one would have expected for a main Edinburgh Festival show...

Life and love on the inside

Declan Croghan, Irish author of this attractive, thoughtful play, has worked as a navy as well as an actor and, so the programme tells us, 'has a teenager spent some years in hospital'...

LONDON THEATRE

Glasgow who turned rent boy in Dublin and injured an excessively demanding client. 'I hit him over the head with the lid of the cistern,' he says in his ingenious way.

FESTIVAL MUSIC: Gerald Larner on Finnish verve, Lieder charm and music-theatre disaster

The great attraction of the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra's second concert (Usher Hall) was not the orchestra itself, refreshingly keen ensemble though it is, nor even its conductor, familiar figure though Jukka-Pekka Saraste is in Scotland...

Sublime swansong

It is also a challenge to an orchestra's command of fine detail, which was clearly no problem to the Finns, and just the score to offset Saraste's brilliant, unrestrained interpretation of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony.

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THEATRE

THE KING'S HEAD THEATRE, 115 Upper St., LITTONTON, N1 1QN CAROLINE NIN-If you love me

**M**y people are American. My time is today. If those aren't the most famous eight words in the history of 20th-century music, they should be. George Gershwin was born 100 years ago this month. He made that portentous claim in 1926. It was no idle boast. He had three hit shows on Broadway. He had just been the virtuoso piano soloist when his Concerto in F was premiered in classical music's sacred shrine—Carnegie Hall.

He had already read DuBose Heyward's *Porgy*, the novel of black ghetto life which he would turn into the first (the only?) great American opera. Ahead, too, lay his stunning film scores. He was just 27, and had barely 11 years left on this earth. But genius requires no long lease. Like Mozart and Schubert, Gershwin seemed to take musical dictation straight from God, at lightning speed.

In the days leading up to his centenary (September 26) we will assuredly be blitzed with articles, broadcasts, concerts and record-

## Who will answer Gershwin's challenge?

ings galore. Even now some Britpop babe is probably perpetrating an horrific crime on *Summertime* or *I Got Rhythm*. But in truth, Gershwin's music hardly needs celebrating. It's in the air we breathe. That is the mark of his stature.

What does need attention—especially at the end of a century in which musical culture has fragmented into a thousand self-regarding clans, cliques and coteries—is Gershwin's stupendous vision of what a composer should be. "True music must repeat the thought and aspirations of the people and the time," he said. "My people are American. My time is today."

What all-embracing ambition! It takes chutzpah to say such things, especially if your parents emigrated to the country (with "plenty o' nothin'") only 30 years earlier. And it takes genius to deliver the results. Gershwin had buckets of both. What's more, he had high ideals. The celebrated insecurity of his Lower East Side childhood—25 addresses in 20 years—shouldn't mask the fact that he and brother Ira (his lifelong lyricist) were outstandingly bright, well-read kids. George might have started his career as the youngest song-plugger in Tin Pan Alley, but his serious intent was quickly displayed.

He was just 24 when his songs were included in a classical recital, and only a year older when he made the famous "crossover" breakthrough with *Rhapsody in Blue*. He sought lessons with Ravel (Ravel famously asked him how much he earned, and then declared, with icy Gallic logic, "It is I who should take lessons from you"). And he offered the decidedly unmelodious Arnold Schoenberg a comradely helping hand when Sch-



RICHARD MORRISON

enberberg fled to America. In other words, Gershwin liked nothing better than schmoozing with "serious" musicians—who were in turn dazzled and often overawed by his mercurial talent. And his gigantic self-confidence cocooned him in a state of blissful indifference to the

brigade of sour-faced, cloth-eared critics who loathed him for his insouciant jack-of-all-trades. His aim was to make epic musical statements that were also truly popular. Had he lived, *Porgy* would surely have been the first of many masterpieces that could have saved the classical world from its 40-year nightmare in Timeless Alley, and at the same time freed pop music from the straitjacket of the four-minute song format that constricts it to this day.

Cartney, Marsalis... the list of popular tunesmiths who have attempted symphonic-sized works is long. But none has united disparate audiences as Gershwin did, and most have been savagely ridiculed for their pains.

Perhaps the melancholy truth is that tastes are now so fragmented, and the division between subsidised music and commercial pop now so institutionalised, that musicians tremble at the thought of making the leap. Don't forget that Gershwin wrote his first hits when Tchaikovsky's *Pathétique* was still "new music"; indeed, there is a fair bit of Tchaikovsky and Liszt in *Rhapsody in Blue*, in those days the journey from Tin Pan Alley to Carnegie Hall was still feasible, especially for a man who could handle a daring key-change with far more panache than any conservative professor.

But today? Just consider the stylistic gap between, say, Harrison Birtwistle and Paul McCartney—two knighted composers who are natives of the same county and of roughly the same generation. In musical terms, they don't even inhabit adjacent galaxies.

Of course, plurality is healthy for musical life. But our era's prevailing ethos of blinkered specialisation has crabbed musical ambitions. If composers conquer one field, most go back and try to conquer it again. Perhaps they fear peer scorn; more likely they are nervous about offending their fans.

Either way, few composers in 1998 have the nerve to follow Gershwin's example. As his centenary approaches, the best we can do is to put on a recording of *Porgy* and ponder the sad fact that the seemingly simple trick of telling a town's tale of ordinary folk to ordinary folk, in music of epic power and beauty, has been managed so rarely in the 61 years since a brain tumour felled the greatest melody-maker of our century.

## Hail the hair apparent



Tailor-made: the dancers of City Ballet of London in the world premiere of Mark Baldwin's hugely flattering *The Man with a Moustache*

**H**arold King has been doggedly running ballet companies for more than 20 years. With London City Ballet, an outfit he kept alive for two decades, he achieved impressive results. But can the same be said for the company he now directs, City Ballet of London?

On the evidence of Balanchine's *Donizetti Variations*,

the work which opened City Ballet's London season on Wednesday night, the answer would have to be no. The performance was embarrassing. Balanchine's Bournonville-style writing—bouncy petit allegro, precise tidy beats and quaint "olde world" romance—exposed fundamental weaknesses in the dancers' strength, stamina and expressive credibility. The princi-

pals, Joanne De Souza and Vitali Malko, were technically mismatched (did this man really dance with the Bolshoi?) and tentative in their duet. Malko's partnering skills were abysmal, his solo work painful to watch; while De Souza's response was to grin madly and pretend everything was all right.

Istvan Herczeg's *Sinfonietta Giocosa* (set to taped Mar-

tinu), which closed the programme, may be the kind of contemporary ballet you order by the metre—speedy, rippling bodies racing through whirling, effervescent Neo-Classicism—but it kept the audience happy and showed the dancers off to far better advantage.

What made the evening worthwhile, however, was Mark Baldwin's *The Man with a Moustache*, commissioned by King from one of Britain's most noted contemporary dance choreographers. Baldwin has here chosen to work in the language these dancers know best—classical ballet—and his writing is sur-

## Spark missing in vast space

**T**he last time I heard Maria Friedman at this venue she was singing in a gala tribute to George Gershwin. Since then she has taken the lead in Kurt Weill and Ira Gershwin's psycho-musical *Lady In The Dark*. Her late-night Proms appearance, devoted to the songs of Kurt Weill, Hanns Eisler and Bertolt Brecht, offered more proof of her rare versatility.

The problem she confronted on Wednesday lay in exorcising the ghost of Ute Lemper, who was originally scheduled to appear alongside Robert Ziegler's Matrix Ensemble. While it may be true that Friedman is the better actress, and not all Brecht and Weill enthusiasts are wild about Lemper's interpretations of the classic texts, there was no denying that a certain idiomatic spark was missing from the evening. Neither is the Albert Hall ideal for material this intimate.

PERHAPS the oppressively humid weather was partly to blame, but there seemed to be tuning problems from the outset of this BBC Symphony Orchestra Prom.

The magical hush of quiet strings at the start of Webern's *Im Sommerwind* was suddenly broken by the entry of wind chords vibrating out of kilter. In Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto, the crucial quiet end of the slow movement was marred again by tangibly clashing winds, and in Prokofiev's fiendish Fifth Symphony, string and brass sections were laid bare.

Despite this, Manfred Honeck drew an intense performance of *Im Sommerwind* from the orchestra. Its Mahlerian beauties came through in a fluent and warm reading, which managed to slip over the sometimes awkward corners of the

**PROMS**  
**Maria Friedman**  
Albert Hall/Radio 3

Without a full orchestra to cushion her, Friedman sounded underpowered on *Pirate Jenny* and the Eisler-Brecht collaboration, *Nanna's Song*. Her light voice—better suited to musical theatre than the concert stage—largely lacked that elusive combination of ardour and world-weariness. *Surabaya Johnny* was much more persuasive. Friedman's skills as an actress allowing her to heighten the aura of anguish and betrayal. She brought a quiet dignity to the appeals to posterity embedded in *To Those Born Later*.

If the vocals proved variable, Ziegler's arrangements, dallying with

jazz textures and rhythms, were superbly handled. Room was also found for pieces as varied as Eisler's *Kleine Sinfonie* and the film music of his Suite No. 2.

The BBC Singers, together with Carolyn Foulkes, Andrew Murgatroyd and Stuart MacInyre, joined Ziegler for the most idiosyncratic items of all. Eisler's choral settings based on the "War Primer" verse captions written by Brecht to accompany a series of war photographs. The text did not extend far beyond routine anti-war sentiments and paeans to "the red walls of Moscow". Stirring music but partial history, as was the inscription in the programme that Eisler's deportation from the US in 1948 was the work of Joe McCarthy. "Honest" Joe did not begin to make headlines until two years later.

CLIVE DAVIS

## A fluent relay race

young composer's first main opus. Leader Stephen Bryant's solos were luminous.

Lazy rhythms clouded the Fourth Piano Concerto but not Alfred Brendel's performance. Honeck was hyperactive on the podium but rarely drew a reflection of Brendel's understated elegance from the orchestra.

If the orchestra's Beethoven came dressed in fustian clothes, then Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony was the perfect antidote. One of the challenges for a conductor is to define and pace the slow first and third movements. Honeck pro-

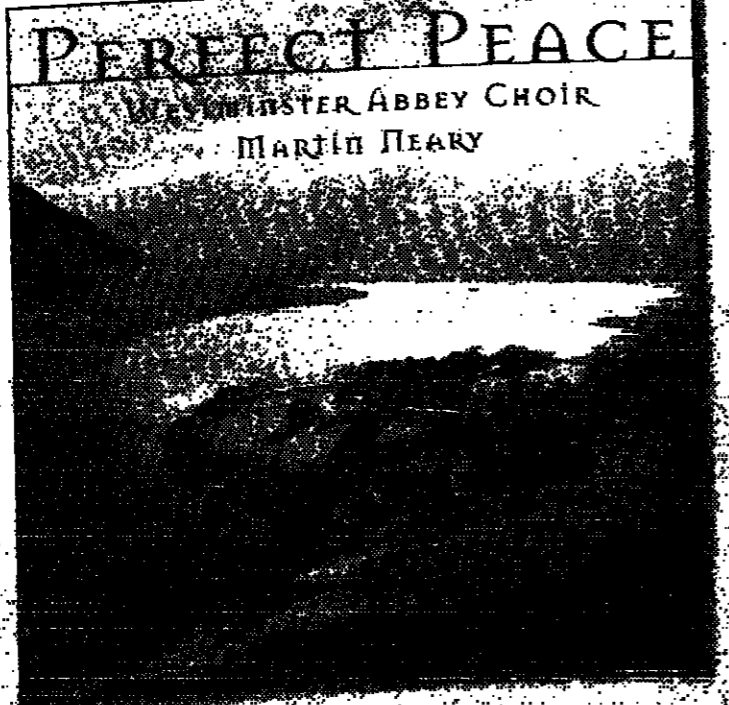
duced a truly monumental first, despite the sometimes wandering, uneven crochets of the main theme. Prokofievian melody demands absolute rhythmic precision. The mischievous Scherzo, with its artful mix of ragtime and dissonant classicism, was here irresistible. The extraordinarily Gothic climax of the slow movement was brilliantly staged, but could have done with stronger bass.

It was a shame that the scramble of uncertainty before the end never crescendoed to a convincingly explosive ending; until then, Honeck had dealt well with the relay race of material handed from section to section. Special mention should go to the superb cello guest principal, Timothy Gill.

HELEN WALLACE

## PERFECT PEACE

Over two hours of the finest choral music including *Abide with me, I vow to Thee, my country*, John Tavener's *Song for Athene, The Lord's my shepherd* and Allegri's *Miserere* performed by the world famous choir of Westminster Abbey, directed by Martin Neary.



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## DANCE

prisingly conventional, deliberately old-fashioned. He was inspired by the Lord Berners score (taken from *L'uomo dai baffi* and *Valse bourgeoise*), a bitty musical adventure prone to mood swings and contrary statement. Baldwin's response to the music's jockey surrealism is a kind of formalism that calls to mind Tudor's well-bred couplings. To this Baldwin adds an impulsiveness, a drunken daring, but what we miss is the music's game-for-anything spirit. The choreography makes light of the fake moustaches and bowler hats, as if Baldwin wanted to go goofy on the props but lost his nerve. But the piece is challenging to perform, enjoyable to watch and hugely flattering to the dancers.

The design and costumes, by Andrew Flint-Shipman, are another plus; they are simply ravishing. Boldly coloured tuxes and elegant waistcoats set against an indigo blue night-time sky; party attire that looks both glamorous and slightly subversive.

King prefaced the performance with a tribute to Lord Rothermere, the company's honorary president. Without the keen support of Rothermere, who died on Tuesday, King will have to work even harder to ensure City Ballet's survival. More works like *The Man with a Moustache* will surely help to make his case more convincing.

DEBRA CRAINE

30p

THE TIMES

# CANCEL THE MILK.

The great easyJet take-off starts on Monday.

http://www.the-times.co.uk

CHANGING TIMES

POP ALBUMS

The Hole truth about fame

Love is a many lumbered thing

HOLE
Celebrity Skin
(Geffen GED 25164, £15.99)
THE difficulty with reviewing the new record by Hole is that it comes laden with so much baggage.

POP ALBUMS

MANSUN
Six
(Parlophone 4967232, £15.99)
THOSE of you who admired Mansun's No 1 debut album, Attack Of The Grey Lantern, will probably be a little bemused by this sprawling, relentlessly experimental follow-up.

A mammoth 70 minutes long with rather nebulous concept album pretensions, Six is the work of a group who seem desperate to distance themselves from the hordes of orthodox British guitar bands.

It therefore seems quite apt that Love should call her new album Celebrity Skin, for so much of it is preoccupied with fame and its debilitating side-effects.

Aesthetically, there's nothing to say that such wilful self-absorption can't make for great art - one need look no further than Nirvana - but Love's all-consuming narcissism eventually becomes tiresome and on songs like Awful ("I was punk/Now I'm just stupid/I'm so awful"), it seems almost adolescent.

Among Love's tortuous chest-beating (those of you inclined to comb the lyric sheet for Kurt Cobain references will find much to chew on) there are too many songs about the music industry and Love's perceived rivals. Who cares?

Musically, Celebrity Skin flits between two styles: radio-friendly airbrushed pop (Awful, Malibu, Boys On The Radio) and chugging neo-grunge (Use Once And Destroy, Reasons To Be Beautiful). The production is so flat you could play snooker off it: nor does the presence of Billy Corgan (the Smashing Pumpkins) have much effect. As for the vocal performances, Love sounds curiously uninvolved in her own psychodrama.

DJIVAN GASPARYAN & MICHAEL BROOK
Black Rock
(Real World CDR W73 7243 8 46230 2.9, £14.99)
IN AN unusual but ultimately

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 (2) Where We Belong - Boyzone (Polydor)
2 (1) Talk on Corners - Corrs (Atlantic)
3 (5) Savage Garden - Savage Garden (Columbia)
4 (34) Life Goes On - Sash! (Mute)
5 (7) Blue - Simply Red (East West)
6 (4) 100% Colombian - Fun Lovin' Criminals (Chrysalis)
7 (8) Payance Fiction - Urkine (Mo'Nique)
8 (6) International Velvet - Catatonia (Blanco y Negro)
9 (9) Life Thru a Lens - Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)
10 (5) Postcards from Heaven - Lighthouse Family (Wid Cart)

Copyright © 1998. Figure in brackets indicates last week's position

ARTS

MUSIC BUSINESS

A record label is born



Parts greater than the Hole: post-Kurt Cobain, Courtney Love (second from left, with the rest of her band) is now rock star, actress and model, but is mostly famous for being famous

inspired musical union. Canadian guitarist/producer Michael Brook has joined forces with the Armenian duduk maestro, Djivan Gasparian.

The duduk is a sonorous, nasal-sounding woodwind instrument similar to the oboe which, when played by the likes of Gasparian, a music professor in the Armenian capital of Yerevan, becomes a conduit for the most haunting and melancholic sounds one is likely to hear.

Brook's ethereal, meditative

guitar melodies provide the ideal backdrop, lending the album a spacious, open-ended feel. Although mostly instrumental, the sleeve notes inform us that these are songs steeped in the Armenian folk tradition, the principal subjects being the love of the homeland (Freedom, Fallen Star) and the love of a woman (Take My Heart, Together Forever).

Partly recorded in Peter Gabriel's Real World Studios in Bath and partly on the island of Lanzarote, whose black volcanic landscape was the inspiration for the title, Black Rock combines the ancient and the modern to produce something that transcends both.

LAMBCHOP
What Another Man Spills
(City Slang EFA 08711-2, £14.49)
THE fifth album from Nashville's maverick nine-piece col-

lective, Lambchop, is another compelling hotchpotch of sad-eyed, heart-broken laments and loose-limbed country rock-outs with, this time around, the odd Curtis Mayfield and Frederick Knight cover thrown in for good measure.

Described as "soul music performed by white country artists", main man Kurt Wagner's enigmatic lyrics are sung in a doleful mumble above slothful, shimmering electric guitar and suitably restrained brass and string sections. The effect, as on N.O., can be quite mesmerising. No wonder Vic Chesnut chose Lambchop as his backing band for his forthcoming album and tour. But Wagner and fellow songwriter F. M. Cornog clearly have a keen sense of the absurd as there's a dark, subtle humour running through much of the album.

NICK KELLY

BLUES ALBUMS

After the future, it's back to the past with a concentrated blast of doo-wop music from Hamburg-based Dee-Jay Records. They've been busy raiding the archives of tiny, store-front record companies from the spiritual home of vocal group music - New York. Lou Cicchetti's Cousin Records, for instance, was at the back of a records and fancy goods shop in the Bronx. Al Browne's Aljon label was based in Brooklyn and Crystal Ball started off as a collectors' label releasing unused doo-wop tracks. You won't have heard any of the groups, but the Cousin CDs (DJ-CD 550047 and DJ-CD 55048), the Aljon releases (DJ-CD 550041 and DJ-CD 55055) and the three volumes

of Crystal Ball recordings (DJ-CD 55056, 55057 and 55062) all offer a fascinating glimpse of New York's tenement harmonies of the Fifties and Sixties. (Dee-Jay Records, Schallplatten, Postbox: 550269, 2262 Hamburg.)

Much more in the mainstream and a superb primer for anyone who has just got into blues and soul is the Charlie Gillett-compiled And I Need A Shot of Rhythm & Blues (Debutante 555-937-2). Classics such as Otis Redding's Mr Pitiful and Sly and the Family Stone's Family Affair rub shoulders with previously hard to find numbers such as Bobby Parker's killer cut, Watch Your Step, and Mack Rice's original version of Mustang Sally.

JOHN CLARKE

In the maverick spirit

To anyone of a glass-is-half-empty mentality, the music industry as we know it is on Death Row. Nothing sounds new; no one goes to gigs; labels are keeling over; and kids would rather operate a PlayStation than a hi-fi. But then there are the glass-is-half-full merchants, for whom the charts are an ever-changing pageant of new talent and record sales are defiantly buoyant.

The true prognosis for a business going through one of its occasional crises of confidence lies somewhere between those two extremes. But as A&R executives kill time while they wait for the next Oasis by signing yet another Identikit cover version, one must ponder the disappearance of the true pop maverick. The sort of mogul, be it Island Records' creator Chris Blackwell at the turn of the 1960s or Rick Rubin with his hip-hop haven at Def Jam in the mid-1980s, who blottoched the rulebook and created his own self-sufficient record republic, before the business was colonised by attorneys.

The wreaths at the graveside of A&M Records, the British division of which went under in June, have already wilted and even the most celebrated nonconformist of the latter-day British industry, Alan McGee of Creation Records, has had to clip his own wings of late, the apparent over-expansion of his label resulting in the laying-off last month of ten of its staff of 35. So it is a brave man who pokes his head above the parapet in 1998 to launch a new record label, especially one that aims to recapture some of that untamed spirit of creativity. Step forward Julian Palmer, who during 12 years with Blackwell's Island became one of Britain's most accomplished practitioners of that strange and inexact acquisitional science known as Artist & Repertoire.

Palmer presided over the creation of Island's respected 4th & Broadway banner, to which he signed such singular talents as Tricky, the Stereo MC's and Mica Paris. It was quite an empire for a London soul boy who started out as an accounts clerk and who only took a first dabble in the A&R game when his bosses were away on holiday.

Now he is starting again, with backing from Sony Music's international network SINE, by creating the Disco Volante label. With offices in London and Los Ange-

Paul Sexton meets the man mad enough to start a record label in the middle of a crisis



New boy on the block: Julian Palmer, head of the Disco Volante label

les, it plans its first releases early in 1999 from the Portland, Oregon, rock band Absinthe, the London singer Santessa and the British pop outfit Darling.

As he makes ready, Palmer is only too aware that many a cynical tongue still refers to what he does for a living as Um & Aah. The jaundiced eye sees it as a fellowship of confused sheep with out-of-control chequebooks, all following each other around in desperate, decreasing circles all the way to the deficit sheet and the expensive drug habit.

It's not always the A&R man's fault; some A&R men sign acts that become successful beyond their jurisdiction. They're bastardised by other areas of the record business and the little old A&R man takes the flak.

In 1984, at the age of 21, Palmer was sitting in the club promotions department at Island wondering what an A&R man did, then suddenly found that he was one. "I signed records when people were away on holiday. That's how I signed Somebody Else's Guy by Jocelyn Brown." Taking a tip from the guru of mobile DJs, the late Record Mirror columnist James Hamilton, Palmer called the American telephone number on the label of the import single and secured the British rights to what became one of the most powerful and enduring soul hits of the decade.

"My bosses came back and I said 'I've got some good news and bad news. The good news is we've got a new artist, the bad news is that we've spent money.'"

"Comparatively, that was a huge step from me, to get the accounts department to write a cheque for \$8,000 and for me to send it, with no experience. I honestly figured I was going to get fired."

"But I said, how bad can it be? I'll just go back to DJ-ing; I earn more money doing that. And I remember getting a £50 bonus for it and a pat on the back when it was a hit. Instead of getting fired, that set the tone for the rest of my career."

As managing director of Disco Volante, Palmer's intentions are to be as musically broad-based as the modern industry will allow. "It's a business, for sure, but it's also entertainment. I love characters. I worked with Blackwell for 12 years, and there are so few maverick-spirited people like him left."

"You want to hear somebody who doesn't want to be the new rock'n'roll star. Like Tricky, it took me forever to get a meeting with him, then it took me forever to get him to want to make an album. He wanted to wear make-up and a dress and silver hair, so I saw Bowie in him."

"My new band Absinthe sound to me like an amalgamation of Roxy Music and Bowie. They have the essence and grandeur of Japan, and Radiohead's musical intricacy. I love all those things, but I also love funk and hip-hop. I think you can be into everything."

Advertisement for 'The Best Of John Hiatt' album. Features a photo of John Hiatt and the text: 'John Hiatt is undoubtedly one of the most highly respected US songwriters of his generation, supplying hit songs for artists such as Bob Dylan, Bonnie Raitt, Linda Ronstadt and Joe Cocker. His own recording career spans over 20 years and 13 albums - 'The Best Of John Hiatt' - a perfect document of his remarkable talent. HEAR IT NOW AT ALL [ANDYS RECORDS] STORES.... UK's BEST INDEPENDENT RETAILER 93.94.95.96.97'

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page: 'سكزا من الأهل'

POP FESTIVALS: Mad delights in Reading

ARTS

TOMORROW Read Metro for pop listings

Rhythm sings the blues

Thanks, Reading, for the memories

Why do we neglect our R&B stars? Nigel Williamson reports

Back in the 1960s when the likes of John Mayall, Eric Clapton and Peter Green were spearheading the British blues boom...



The genuine article? "I don't get this idea about not being authentic," says Des'ree. "In America they had no preconceptions"

It is an attitude which infuriates Hinda Hicks, one of the most promising of the crop of new British R&B performers...

They dismiss British R&B as light pop. Hicks, whose debut album Hinda boasts production credits by several of the biggest names in American R&B...

one of them. Soul is not a black thing. It's a natural thing. Lee Pinkerton, the arts editor of The Voice, Britain's leading black newspaper...

legged lack of authenticity. "I don't get this idea about not being authentic," she says. "When I first went on tour in America with Seal they had no preconceptions about me..."

— most of them women. In addition to Hicks, this year has brought chart success for Kensal Green's Shola Ama...

Winnie The Pooh balloons and a free tracheotomy — it was the best British festival of the summer

Well here are two things you don't expect to say about the Reading Festival: the showmanship was exemplary — like watching Elvis in lame, ballroom-twirling. And I danced all night.

Foundation are a glorious thing. "This is the true sound of the Union Jack," their lead singer yelps, before launching a fabulous hip-hop/bhangra hardship on to a sea of outstretched hands.



CAITLIN MORAN

However, as the difference between a rock festival and an indie festival is rather like the difference between sitting in a scary pub all night or sitting in a dull pub all night, Reading is still, usually, a rather boring affair.

dred tinfoil Winnie The Poohs fly off into the sky, until they're tiny shining specks.

Saturday is quite extraordinary: the line-up consists entirely of stars, all of whom could groove their way out of a lead coffin six weeks after their own deaths.

It's back down the front for the Beastie Boys, however, who are the best I've ever seen them — at one point, they make jazz you can't come to surely an achievement in itself, par with making self-interesting. For those interested in Pop Star Rockness, it's un-

ing to note that the Beasties, as mates-of-the-Dalai-Lama, requested that the Prodigy refrain from playing the charming pean to wife-beating, Smack My Bitch Up, but that the Prodigy went ahead and played it anyway.

It's left to the divine Ms Shirley Manson and Garbage to revive Reading's new Commitment to Starriness: in orange pants, shiny black, knee-high boots and a tiny beige dress, Shirley holds the audience like a sobor Courtney Love.

Elliott Smith's candidacy as a hot ticket in this year's rock primaries may have seemed to arrive ready-stamped. The record in question, just released on Dreamworks, is XO, the first main label platform for Smith's introspective, bleakly beautiful songs.

Smooth, stark and noble

LIVE GIG

Elliott Smith Dingwall's

White XO has the smoother texture of more production dollars, the soft eloquence of his songs still speaks of an every-

man integrity, and he was among friends at Dingwall's on Monday evening, in a crowd that had as many longstanding admirers as new readers.

vocals and guitar, economically accompanied by bass and drums. Smith cut a slight but noble figure. The lush colour of the new album were nowhere in this setting, stripped of their gloss and worked right down to the indelible primer of their resigned romanticism.

PAUL SEXTON

Centre stage

CHRIS POTTER QUARTET Verrigo (Concord Jazz CCD-4843-2) AFTER spending much of his early career in intriguingly varied sideman work...

JAZZ ALBUMS ERNIE WATTS Classic Moods (JVC 9041-2) LIKE Chris Potter, tenor player Ernie Watts was thoroughly established as a sideman with the likes of Buddy Rich and Oliver Nelson...

HMV recommends roots. Mickie Hart + Planet Drum Supralingua. Infinite Blue The Poobies. Pat Gallagher & Gots Don't Show. End Of The Summer Dar Williams. Slow Down Keb' Mo'. Horstow Grange Steeleye Span.

Mike Oldfield, that name rings a bell. Tubular Bells III Mike Oldfield. Whatever you're into, get into WHSmith.

# We don't need Viagra on C5

Dawn Airey tells Carol Midgley that an upfront attitude to sex is not the channel's only weapon

What is the first thing that springs to mind when you think of Channel 5? Kirsty Young, the fragrant face of 5 News? Video returning, the tedious process which enabled strangers to walk into your home and fiddle with your domestic appliances?

## the media interview

Or is it sex? If your answer is option three, the bad news is that you may be one of the "dirty mac brigade" — the phrase used by Dawn Airey, Channel 5's Director of Programmes, at its launch last year to flay up the appeal of the regular dirty movie (or, to use the scheduler's parlance, "adult film").

Two new weekday sex programmes have been added to the schedule. *Hotline* and *Compromising Situations*, in accord with the channel's ethos of being "upbeat, open and unselfconscious". Ms Airey is cheerfully upfront about Channel 5's quota of sex programmes. "We broadcast no more sex than any other channel, it's just that we aren't afraid to put it at the heart of the schedule where people can find it," she says.

"It's being unselfconscious about something which we spend a fair amount of our time doing, thinking or talking about. Life is about relationships and people should be less po-faced about it. Let's face it, most people are interested in sexual activity whether as a voyeur or a practitioner and we are unashamed about that. A lot of viewers are enormously gratified that we are filling their twilight hours with programming they really want to watch."

Ms Airey, who this week gave the topless model Melinda Messenger her own chat show and last year made the decision to run the ultra-violent film *Natural Born Killers*, makes a far more important point, however. Despite press hype, adult programming makes up only 1.7 per cent of the channel's total transmission hours and is not a growth area in ratings terms. The fact is that Channel 5 — butt of many a joke and terrestrial TV's oft-kicked underdog — is really doing rather nicely.

Its share of the audience has been topping 5 per cent, which is well ahead of target. Various programmes (including *Hospital* and *5 News*) have won national and international awards, and the England versus Poland match last year brought a record audience of nearly four million. A recent documentary, *The Real Monty*, was watched by 2.5 million people, which is more than many Channel 4 documentaries achieve.

Ms Airey now confidently predicts that within three years, Channel 5 will be the "third channel", more popular than BBC2 and Channel 4. "When you consider that we only have 70 per cent of the national coverage that other channels have, we are achieving some staggering results. I am working with a quarter of the budget of Channel 4 or BBC2, and 15 per cent of ITV and BBC1 but we are getting this kind of share. Just think what we could do if we were getting 100 per cent coverage. When people get snuffy and dismissive of Channel 5 I get very angry because, like it or not, we are a success."



Dawn Airey, C5's upbeat Director of Programmes: "When people get snuffy and dismissive of Channel 5 I get very angry because, like it or not, we are a success."

"We have been getting a 5 per cent share for the last three months. It is gratifying to see those kind of figures. People like our programmes. So let's dispel the myth. We do not need Viagra-related substances to keep our ratings up." Channel 5 will not get into 100 per cent of homes until the Government switches off analogue (in 10 to 15 years' time) and the country goes digital. This could be when it really takes off. Figures already show that the audience is higher in areas where viewers get a better picture. In Blackhill, Scotland, for instance, which receives excellent reception, the channel gets a 10 per cent share at times. In ten years, of course, Ms Airey could be virtually any-

where. Tomorrow morning she flies to America to begin a three-month management course with 200 executives from across the globe who are considered to be the cream of their professions. Colleagues say the fact that Channel 5 is sponsoring her for such prestigious (and expensive) training means she is being groomed as a future chief executive. However, she leaves with an alarming statistic ringing in her ears. Greg Dyke, one of the few British TV talents to have gone on the course at Harvard, told her that a third of the intake splits up from its partners while an-

other third sees the light and leave its jobs. Neither seems likely to happen to Ms Airey, at least for now. She has been with her partner Martin for 18 years in a relationship she describes as "rock solid". As for her work, she says: "I honestly do think I have the best job in telly. I want to stay in a creative environment and work for a creative company." The programme of which she is most proud is *5 News* at 7pm. While she acknowledges the appeal of Kirsty Young, she believes the show has done well because it epitomises the personality of the channel.

"It embodies what Channel 5 strives to be, which is not self-conscious or self-righteous, but upbeat, optimistic, candid, and even a little bit self-deprecating at times. We knew there were huge numbers of under 40s not watching news so we took a different agenda. There would still be a diet of political and international stories but we would focus the news on issues that matter — health, education, work, personal finance, celebrity, sport. It has worked brilliantly." But there have also been disasters. Its showbiz show *Exclusive!* has the dubious distinction of coming first in the all-time Top 50 chart of the least watched terrestrial TV programmes in the past ten years, with just 130,000 viewers. "In theory *Exclusive!* should have worked. Everybody is interested in showbusiness but at the end of day it didn't quite

live up to its names and audience appetite wasn't there five nights a week." Perversely, Ms Airey is delighted that so many of her staff have been poached by rival channels. Kirsty Young is being tipped as the anchor for many new programmes, and Tim Gardam, head of Channel 5 news, has just been made director of programmes at Channel 4. This proves, says Ms Airey, that Channel 5 is a hotbed of talent which is producing fresh new material. The sex, she says, is incidental. "We don't broadcast anything that is exploitative or pornographic," she says. "Everything has to adhere to the codes. But what we have done is push the boundaries back, very deliberately, to see how viewers would respond to us. We think the viewers welcome us because we treat them as adults and don't preach."

**'Most people are interested in sex as a voyeur or a practitioner, and we are unashamed about that'**

30p THE TIMES

# THE STORY THAT NEEDS NO HYPE.

Starting in The Sun Times on Monday read exclusive extracts from Richard Mansson's autobiography, listing his biggest hits in his career. An annual of who can be trusted.

<http://www.the-times.co.uk> CHANGING TIMES

# Stan and Ollie hit 70



Way Out West is one of the Laurel and Hardy films being shown nationwide. Its score was nominated for an Oscar

A small addition has been made to the big screen films on offer at British cinemas this month. Up there alongside *Armageddon* and *The Avengers* are some films whose budgets were probably less than that of Bruce Willis's on-set coiffure. Yet they have been seen by far more people and will be remembered long after *Armageddon* becomes a faded memory. Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy's slapstick film career is 70 years old this weekend, and to mark the anniversary, four of their films are being shown at cinemas nationwide. *Way Out West*, their favourite, is being paired with the Oscar-winning *The Music Box*. *Sons of the Desert*, one of the most famous comedy classics, will be shown along with *Helpmates*. Last night some of Britain's leading comedians attended a gala screening of *Way Out West* at The Prince Charles Theatre in London to mark the premiere screening of the comedy duo's first film, *Should*

## Carol Midgley talks to Lois Laurel as the duo's best films return to the big screen

*Married Men Go Home?*, in America on September 6, 1928. Since then millions have seen their films, and Video Vision Fanclub has sold 200,000 copies of Laurel and Hardy classics in Britain alone. Ten newly restored films are released on Monday. Among members of the Laurel and Hardy fan club are Frank Skinner, Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer, Robbie Coltrane and Stephen Fry. Andrew Sachs, who played Manuel in *Fawlty Towers*, says: "I try not to laugh at them and fail regularly. Physical comedy would not have been how it is without them. Laurel and Hardy are for grown-ups: I realise that now." But Lois Laurel, the 70-year-old daughter of Stan, says that it is seeing children laughing

and making colour films was prohibitive. They would have loved it." *One Good Turn* is one of their movies not being shown this month. It contains a scene that was specially incorporated for Lois, who used to become upset at seeing her father constantly being beaten over the head by Hardy. "When I was visiting the set I would see him beating up my father. I didn't think that my father could take care of himself and I didn't want anything to do with Oliver Hardy," she recalls. To appease his daughter, Stan had a revenge scene put in that shows him getting his own back on the bullying Ollie. Ironically, although Laurel and Hardy are revered by some of today's most fashionable comedians, she believes the admiration would not have been mutual. "Some of the comedians of today leave me cold," she says. "I know if my father saw some of the acts at the Comedy Store he would be mystified."

THE TIMES

# The

After Diana, newspaper editors have realised the point has been made. After Ruffalo's success as...

# B

## Dempsey

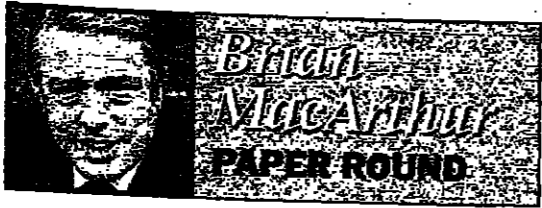
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# The end of Dianamania is nigh



**After Diana: a year on, newspaper editors seem to have realised that saturation point has been reached. After Rothermere: can his successors emulate him? Plus tributes to a press baron**

**B**y Monday, the anniversary of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, even journalists were sick of the subject — and they found that their readers, the great British public, were, too. As they observed what crowds there were at Kensington Palace, Balmoral and Althorp, all the reporters found the same story. Matthew Engel in *The Guardian* noted an outbreak of "comparative indifference" and Alan Hamilton in *The Times* described the acts of remembrance as "subdued". The atmosphere was more thoughtful than grief-stricken, added Robert Hardman in *The Daily Telegraph*. The result was that none of the national newspapers achieved any significant sales boost. At *The Mirror* the Editor, Piers Morgan, admits frankly that tabloid editors had expected scenes of mass hysteria on the anniversary similar to those of a year ago — and that they did not happen. Editors got the mood of the nation wrong. He took the point: the public was sending editors a message. It was a message that was spelt out much more starkly in newspapers abroad, where editors are not required to show the same reticence expected of British editors. Seeing our-

selves as others see us would shock the anti-Windsor brigade who booed the historian David Starkey out of Kensington Gardens for uttering the mildest of truths about Prince Charles.

**'Is there anybody who hasn't had enough by now?'**

"On please, God, no," wrote Tom Shales in *The Washington Post* as he reflected on NBC's two-hour Diana programme on Monday night produced by Sir Richard Attenborough. "Not two more hours of Dianamania. Not two more hours about dear Princess Diana and how wonderful she was and how a sweeter soul never walked the earth. . . . Is there anybody who hasn't had enough by now?" Comment in Italy was even more strongly anti-Diana in tone. After 15 hours of blanket Diana coverage, the two main Italian television stations were inundated with complaints and — as Richard Owen, *The Times* correspondent in Rome, noted — the Italian press was not only mostly negative but even "vicious" in a manner unimaginable in Britain. "In life she was a little blonde doll, half-woman, half-beauty case, quite pretty but completely thick," said *Il Messaggero* in a front-page editorial. "She bounced from a bed to a yacht, from a jet to a grand



Prince Harry registering at Eton: after he and Prince William asked that their mother be left in peace, the tabloids decreed it was time to stop mourning

hotel, from a bodyguard to a millionaire Arab. From a Versace fashion show to Mother Teresa's lepers. She embodied the ideological and spiritual vacuum of our time. She didn't sing like Edith Piaf, act like Marilyn Monroe, dance like Isadora Duncan or write like Virginia Woolf. There was nothing behind the myth, which was nurtured by the two groups she appealed to, homosexuals and vulnerable women." *Corriere della Sera* was equally cruel: "The river of tears has dried up. . . . The Diana faithful will lose their faith because there is nothing to nourish it. . . . By contrast the memory of Mother Teresa and Eva Peron will never wane because they left memorable words behind them. So

for that matter did Elvis Presley with his songs. Diana is exposed as nothing much more than a pretty face with a model's figure." There is no doubt that a significant minority of British readers share such views, which was why, a year on, dissenting voices have now been published in several British newspapers where they were previously unwelcome. Brian Sewell, whose article was held out a year ago, wrote in the *London Evening Standard* of Diana as a cross between "harridan and promiscuous playgirl". He described her "vain self-esteem" and "consummate skill in playing with affections while always securing what she wanted". In *The Times* Matthew Parris wrote that if a

significant minority in Britain were hostile, it was not towards the Princess but towards the process of myth-making and sanctification: "We have to accept we are out of step with a drumbeat others seem to hear but we cannot." It was also why yesterday both *The Sun* and *The Mirror* supported the plea from Prince William and Prince Harry to let their mother rest in peace. "The mourning has to stop," said *The Sun*, "it is time to move on." Editors will still be interested in the big Diana stories, says Piers Morgan, but he predicts an end at last to all the Diana parworks. "Like most editors, I think now is the time to ease off." Another significant omission by the British press has also passed unnoticed. Phil Hall, the Editor of the *News of the World*, pointed out recent-

ly that he had refused to publish two pictures of Prince William, one of him with his arm round a pretty girl, which had been taken by a member of the public, and the other of him enjoying a night out with friends. His decision on both pictures, he admitted, would have been different before the Princess died. "After her death it became clear that the public were uncomfortable with that level of prurience. They wanted something different." Such decisions by British editors meant that Prince Charles and his two sons enjoyed their summer yachting holiday near Greece without a single photograph appearing in the British press. How different from the fate of Diana a year ago. Some things really have changed.

## The wit of Vere

*MOST of the obituaries of Lord Rothermere referred to him as the last of the great hereditary newspaper barons. They also mentioned his impish sense of mischief and his enjoyment of journalists' company. There were some good stories:*

When I was Editor of the *Evening News*, I agreed to pay the *Daily Mail* £1,000 for its exclusive picture of the first test-tube baby. The *Mail* withdrew its offer and I went ahead and published. Top *Mail* executives offered to resign in protest unless I was sacked and Lord Rothermere summoned me to his house at Cap d'Ail. He said: "We can't have fellow editors falling out. So I have to slap your wrist and fine you £1,000, which will, of course, come out of *Evening News* accounts." *Lois Kirby in The Independent*

I sent him a short history of *Tribune*. But my hopes were cruelly dashed. "Thank you for sending me a copy of the *Tribune* book to enliven my dull moments. I hope they never get that dull." *Mark Seddon, Editor of Tribune, in The Guardian*

During last year's general election campaign, Sir James Goldsmith's lawyers bombarded the *Evening Standard* with letters demanding that we should publish a photograph of Goldsmith's would-be national saviour and his Referendum Party with more respect, citing Sir James's longstanding friendship with the proprietor. We sent about a characteristic note: "It is true that a Jimmy Goldsmith is a very old friend of mine. But I see no reason why that should spare him from being leashed by the *Evening Standard*." *Max Hastings, Editor of the Evening Standard*

Shortly after I became Editor of *The Mail on Sunday*, a manager told me that losses were such that we could no longer afford a planned promotion. I expressed my anxieties to Vere. "You're aiming too low," he said. "You should have insisted on far more money in the first place." Then, to the horror of the accountants, he provided it. *Stewart Steven, The Daily Telegraph*

One evening at the Los Angeles Olympic Games, he telephoned me and said: "Could you round up all the troops? I'd like to take you for a drink." There were about 20 of us, all bashing away against deadline. "Can't do it now," I said. "I understand," he said. "I'll wait for you in the bar until you're ready." We met him about 11pm and dinner finished at six next morning. *Ian Woolridge, Daily Mail*

## A hard double-act to follow

**H**ow fickle is fate. Within 12 weeks, as one rival publisher put it yesterday, the mighty house of Rothermere, publisher of the *Daily Mail*, *The Mail on Sunday*, the *Evening Standard* and 17 regional daily newspapers, has lost the two legendary leaders who transformed its fortunes over the past three decades — first Sir David English at 67, and now Viscount Rothermere at 73.

The sudden and unexpected result is that Associated Newspapers, a self-confident, occasionally triumphalist company, is now led by Lord Rothermere's untested 30-year-old son and heir, Jonathan Harmsworth; the driven Paul Dacre, who at 49 becomes his editorial elder statesman; and the suave Charles Sinclair, 50, the group chief executive for the past ten years and Associated's unknown puppet-master.

Ever over the telephone on Wednesday, one could sense the shock that the sudden death of Rothermere had created. Senior journalists, normally fluent and eager to gossip, struggled for words as they tried to make sense of their new situation and to imagine life

after English and Rothermere — a proprietor who was admired and loved as much for his sense of mischief and eccentricities as for his leadership of the group. Many journalists, nurtured and protected by English and Rothermere for years, will be brooding on their fate under the new generation at the top who have none of their loyalties to the past.

If the Fleet Street gossip mill is to be believed, those journalists include Max Hastings, the Editor of the *Evening Standard*, and Jonathan Holborow, the Editor of *The Mail on Sunday*. The word from Northcliffe House, however, is that Dacre's policy, with all three papers doing well and expanding, will be steady as she goes, at least for the time being.

Jonathan Harmsworth, made deputy chairman by his father after the death of English, seems certain to become the new chairman when the board meets next Wednesday. And this was certainly what his father had in mind, according to Sally Taylor, the historian of the *Daily Mail*. "That was always his intention. It was what he wanted and expected," she said yesterday.

The late Lord Rothermere did not succeed his father until he was 45, and even then he was dismissed as a lightweight. The temptation to make the same judgment will be greater where his son is concerned, and Harmsworth would certainly have preferred a longer period of apprenticeship before becoming the fourth member of the

**The house of Rothermere has lost the two legendary leaders who transformed its fortunes. Do their heirs have what it takes to continue the success story?**

dynasty to take the helm of a national newspaper group.

Yet those who have seen him in action speak well of him. According to Taylor, the new Lord Rothermere is just like his father. "He is every inch a Harmsworth — a newspaperman through and through with the same instincts about what sells and a sense of right and wrong that burns very deep," she says.

Another source says that the values that guide the *Daily Mail* were inculcated in him by his father: "He has a passion about the dynasty and is aware that his grandfather nearly destroyed the *Daily Mail*."

He is pragmatic, confident, nobody's fool, resents being patronised and has inherited all the charm of his father, say others. He had certainly been nagging his father to push him forward faster.

Aware of the example of Warwick Fairfax, who frittered away Australia's Fairfax empire, he is expected to rely heavily on Sinclair, who will be the power behind the throne, and Dacre, who will set editorial standards.



Twin pillars of an empire: English and Rothermere

## Dempster makes it official for Today

RADIO 4's *Today* programme was first with the news of Viscount Rothermere's death after Nigel Dempster, the *Daily Mail* gossip columnist, phoned the editor, Rod Liddle. He feared it was a hoax, until presenter John Humphrys, who knows Dempster well, identified his voice. So *Today* ran with the story, at 8.29am without making further checks. This did not prevent a few flutters in the *Today* studio when, minutes after the broadcast, another caller introduced himself with a little chuckle as "you've guessed it."

■ THE decision to poach Vanessa from ITV has caused a Feltz-size row within the BBC. This is because as a mother of three school-age children, she is insisting on working from near her home in London, not Peckham, Birmingham, where the BBC's daytime output is centred. Such is the size of her fee that she'll be expected to host a daily show, as well as



prime-time evening slots, denied her by ITV. But this insistence on London drives the BBC's elaborately constructed, if often bizarre, regional policy (which decrees, for instance, that media programmes are made in Manchester). I'm told the BBC controller Peter Salmon and his new daytime head Jane Lush are facing the music for doing the deal while the other top brass were on holiday.

■ LORD ROTHERMERE invited me to interview him in 1989. He was intrigued that so many column inches on the views of his rival, Lord Stevens of Ludgate, chairman of Express Newspapers, had appeared under my name, yet none on his. His other intention was to milk me on the then novel development of Sky Television and satellite broadcasting, which he thought a rather dubious business. The *Daily Mail* Group, so sure in print, never under-

stood the new medium. It supplied programmes to the wrong satellite operator, British Satellite Broadcasting, crushed by Sky, and then backed Sir David English's enthusiasm for Channel One, supplying cable companies with local news. After four years, it showed no hint of profit. One of Rothermere's last acts, effected posthumously yesterday, was to sanction Channel One's closure later this month.

■ WHILE last weekend's Edinburgh Television Festival created a stir with appearances by Louise Woodward and Elisabeth Murdoch, the organisers are concerned that too few powerbrokers attended. Lis Howell, a committee member, is canvassing support for a new Roger Luard lecture. This would stand alongside the James MacTaggart event as a memorial to the entrepreneur who created Flextech's raft of satellite channels and struck a commercial partnership with the BBC. "It's a way to ensure the big business hitters are involved," says Howell. She happens to be a senior Flextech executive, but her suggestion deserves examination.

■ WHY did the newsreader Peter Sissons launch his fierce attack on his BBC bosses? The answer is that he wants the

governors to be aware of how undermined and anxious presenters feel. Right or wrong, he is acting as a spokesman even for those set to benefit from the review. The most genuinely unperturbed is John Humphrys, who as the *Times* Diary revealed this week, is busily writing an autobiographical book, *Devil's Advocate*. Currently farming in a small way in Wales, he's looking farther afield, perhaps in Dorset, for a farm of up to 1,000 acres, with plenty of woodland, for transformation into an organic showpiece. He would like it to be held in trust for future generations. Planting trees, rather than grilling politicians for breakfast, is his real passion. It certainly seems to pay well.

■ THERE'S no stopping the *Changing Rooms* format. The BBC children's art programme *SmArt*, replacement to Tony Hart's gentle drawing lessons, is taking the show to school. Pupils are asked to

nominate grim bits of their schools for jazzing up. So far, teams of kids, led by presenter artist Mark Speight, have put a bendy mirror in a dark corner, creating a crazy mirror fairground effect, and stencilled fish on a dowdy swimming-pool wall. The *Changing Rooms* concept is also being taken up by the producer's new Dutch business partner, Endemol, which says it can be applied all across Europe. Couples in Greek holiday homes, Spanish villas and German apartments, prepare to reach for your paint pot.

■ DANNY DANZIGER, the joint editor of London-based *Cover* magazine — a year old this month — is currently being besieged with calls asking if the magazine is connected with *The Horse Whisperer*. The hard-bitten career woman played by Kristin Scott-Thomas, who falls in love with Robert Redford, edits a magazine called *Cover*.

The best articles from the best magazines and newspapers

# COVER

She took lovers, she was the media darling, she was bulimic... and she was a Spencer

From 1998's bestselling biography of the 19th century aristress

## The million dollar shop assistant

Pratt's stationer

Plus in *Cover*... the liar, the thief and the queen of the crime

THE BEST ARTICLES FROM THE WEEK: *The Observer*, *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, *The Telegraph*, *The Times*, *The Daily Mail*, *The Daily Mirror*, *The Daily Express*, *The Daily News*, *The Evening Standard*, *The Evening News*, *The Evening Herald*, *The Evening Post*, *The Evening Star*, *The Evening Sun*, *The Evening Tribune*, *The Evening News*, *The Evening Herald*, *The Evening Post*, *The Evening Star*, *The Evening Sun*, *The Evening Tribune*.

# media times

## Small but perfectly informed

Cutting off part of Performance channel's audience is cultural vandalism, says Bob Lynton

Critics often deride multi-channel TV as merely providing more of the same and, in some respects, it is difficult to disagree. UK Gold, Granada Plus and Carlton Select are three channels repeating golden-oldie drama and comedy. There are four documentary channels, five children's channels and three 24-hour news channels.

But there are precious few channels such as Performance which really extends viewer choice.

Performance caters for the minority of people who enjoy classical music, opera, ballet and jazz. Broadcasting every evening, Performance shows each month more than both BBC channels manage in a year. We have built up a devoted audience which cannot regularly find this kind of entertainment anywhere else. At the moment the channel is available to two million cable households and has almost the same share of its potential audience as BBC Radio 3. Not huge when compared with Radio 1 - or Sky One, for that matter - but that is what one would expect of a minority interest channel.

Cable & Wireless is the country's largest cable operator, accounting for about a third of Performance viewers. After five years, it has now decided

to drop the channel from its line-up to make room for a higher-rating channel. What will this be? Yet another sports or movie channel, or perhaps another reruns channel giving people one more "opportunity to view" well-worn sitcoms? When Cable & Wireless intimated its plans to drop Performance, we invited viewers to call us with their opinions and more than 6,000 people rang to express support. This is a sizeable number, especially when it takes only a handful of people calling to complain about a programme on terrestrial TV to raise a national controversy. I doubt if there would be many more calls of support for most higher-rating channels. More than 1,000 letters of protest were delivered to C&W last week.

So the question is: how does one value a TV channel? For Cable & Wireless the answer seems to be simple: the total number of viewers attracted - ie, market forces.

But this value system ignores one other important yardstick: audience appreciation which, in my days at the BBC, was considered as important as ratings. Our viewers appreciate and value Performance far more than the viewers of most higher-rating channels. Witness this extract from one of hundreds of viewers' letters (Reg Moon, of Lewisham, in London): "Being house-



Dance away: a third of Performance's audience gets the channel through Cable & Wireless

bound with arthritis and Parkinson's disease, I can no longer go to concerts, opera and the ballet. Performance is the only way I can see the arts."

Since television is our most influential cultural institution, there is also the question of a channel's contribution to our culture. Here again Performance far outscores most higher-rating channels. Witness another viewer's letter (from Vanda Rorbach in Stoke-on-

Trent): "I'm writing to tell you that I'm a 14-year-old girl who before she saw your channel didn't know anything about opera and plays and culture, but now I watch the Performance channel all the time, as I think that it's great." Sadly, Vanda will shortly be denied this opportunity.

Cable & Wireless's widely advertised slogan "What Can We Do For You?" suggests a willingness to listen to its cus-

tomers. We can only hope it means it, so that if enough customers protest, it will restore Performance.

Fortunately there are other cable operators that take the broader view and balance their own interest in profit with their customers' interest in diversity and choice by continuing to offer Performance.

Bob Lynton is general manager of Performance.

## Big Ben's bongos at ten are numbered

It's time to start weaning yourself off the bongos of Big Ben at 10 o'clock on ITV because soon they won't be there any more. The plan by the ITV companies to move the landmark news programme, after more than 30 years, may have had the gestation period of an elephant and been subject to more leaks than a colander, but it is going to happen all the same.

Old News at Ten hands such as Sandy Gall and Sir Alastair Burnet are against the move and so, more surprisingly, is Gerald Kaufman, chairman of the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee. It is not instantly clear how his attachment to having a fixed time for one news bulletin on one channel fits his vision of communication convergence and unlimited television choice in future.

Tony Blair has let it be known that he is against the move, in line with the former Prime Minister John Major and the late John Smith, who both wrote letters of concern when ITV bungled an attempt to move the programme in 1995. This time, at least so far, there is no sign of opposition from the Archbishop of Canterbury or Buckingham Palace, and the reaction of the Independent Television Commission, which will take the decision, and indeed that of ITN itself, seems muted.

It is all very different from last time when the then ITC chairman, Sir George Russell, made clear that such a move would happen over his dead body and senior ITN executives stirred up a political hornet's nest.

Apart from sentiment there are some serious arguments for keeping News at Ten and Trevor McDonald exactly where they are. It would maintain the tradition on British television that serious news bulletins are carried in the heart of prime time and not shuffled off to the margins by non-stop entertainment. News at Ten also provides competition for the BBC, which would otherwise have the middle of the evening to itself and, critics would argue, would become even more smug and complacent. Politicians also love the flagship TV programme because it provides such an excellent live shop window for the more dramatic moments of their trade. Governments have indeed fallen as a result of divisions carried live on News at Ten.

Against that, much has changed in the five years since ITV began plotting against the news bulletin that sits inconveniently astride

its scheduling of feature films and dramas. In that time, more than 30 per cent of UK homes have acquired multi-channel television, and from this autumn no fewer than ten news and documentary channels will be available from digital including three 24-hour television news channels - Sky, CNN and BBC News 24.

The most compelling argument for change is that ITV, which is facing ever-increasing competition, must be allowed to revamp its schedule, which is almost impossible with News at Ten in its present position. The evidence of impending crisis at ITV is compelling. Between 1994 and 1997 ITV's peak-time audience declined from 44.3 per cent to 38.8 per cent. But more precisely, in the first five months of this year ITV suffered a 27 per cent drop in its audience at 10pm, as other broadcasters screened comedies and popular entertainment to target what they see as a weak spot in the ITV schedule.

There is also some evidence that viewers might like their main evening news at 6.30pm so that they can get the unpleasance of the real world out of the way before settling down to be entertained. If, as seems likely, the ITC will bow to commercial pressures and allow the change, the commission must insist that the ITV companies do carry out their accompanying promises.

The creation of a new half-hour news programme at 11pm is a chance to have a more serious bulletin that carries comprehensive political, business and financial news, including the closing of the working day in the US.

If it is good, it will attract those, such as businessmen and journalists, who will see Trevor McDonald at 6.30pm only if they are at home ill. The ITC must insist that the 11pm is properly funded and is not just a sop. Likewise, the promise to have one-minute bulletins between 6.30pm and 11pm should be a regular commitment. And the ITC should insist that on days of major news stories, such as the Orna bombing, ITV interrupts its entertainment to run special news bulletins that run well beyond a minute.

With a tear in the eye we should be prepared to say goodbye to News at Ten but the ITV companies should not get off scot-free, and their commitment to providing quality news throughout the day should be carefully monitored. Reggie Bosanquet, Sir Alastair Burnet and Sandy Gall deserve no less.



### MEDIA & MARKETING

#### Lead the way

##### Channel 4 International Head of Co-Productions/Marketing Manager

Channel 4 International (C4I) is a commercial subsidiary of Channel 4 Television, and is responsible for all aspects of programme rights exploitation including co-productions, co-finance, pre-sales and distribution. C4I's programming includes that from the best producers in Britain and its catalogue is one of the largest in the country. We are now seeking to fill the following newly created senior roles to strengthen the existing team and to support the Company's strategic objectives. Both roles report to the Managing Director, Channel 4 International.

##### Head of Co-Productions

You will be responsible for overseeing the Channel's co-production and co-finance activities with clients in the USA and around the world. Working alongside Channel 4's commissioning editors, producers and international partners, you will be responsible for identifying programming that is suitable for co-production/co-finance and for marketing and positioning those programmes in overseas markets. As part of C4I's new strategy, you will also oversee the creative aspects of any non Channel 4 programming that the company is distributing.

You will have at least five years' experience working in a production and/or broadcast environment outside the UK. You will have experience in both selling co-production projects to international partners and producing and/or commissioning programmes that are financed through co-production. You will also have a thorough understanding of the international broadcast market and where the major opportunities lie for co-production projects.

Additionally, you will have a strong interest in television programmes and the creative process; an understanding of the different budgeting and financing procedures in major international markets; a proven track record in finding creative solutions to complex problems; excellent inter-personal skills and the ability to work as part of a team.

Experience in factual programming would be highly desirable as would a good understanding of the Channel 4 remit and programming output, and extensive production and broadcast contracts in Europe and America.

Ref: BMC/01/T.

Closing date for applications: 5th October 1998.

##### Marketing Manager

A new department is now being formed to oversee all aspects of the Company's marketing and servicing functions.

You will be responsible for marketing, promoting and servicing the Company's programme distribution and co-production activities. Working with a small team of experienced industry professionals, you will be in charge of an extensive re-launch plan scheduled for 1999. This will involve the creation of an integrated marketing strategy that positions C4I and its services with its core clients in the form of independent producers and international buyers. You will also be responsible for spearheading the division's Internet strategy.

You will have at least five years' experience in a marketing environment. You will have experience in identifying marketing needs of businesses and drawing up long-term strategies that address those needs. You will have hands-on marketing experience in print and/or direct mail media and you will also have experience in the use of focus groups and other research tools required for qualitative analysis. You will have worked with small companies and/or start-ups and will have experience in marketing to mass market consumers as well as smaller business to business sectors.

Additionally, you will have some experience in an audiovisual sector such as broadcast marketing, video marketing or publishing, a strong interest in television programmes and the television industry as a whole, a proven track record in finding creative solutions to complex problems, excellent interpersonal skills and strong contacts in the marketing profession.

Ref: BMC/02/T.

Closing date for applications: 9th September 1998.

Please note interviews for this post will be held 16th and 17th September 1998.

Please send all applications to: The Personnel Department, Channel 4 Television, 124 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2TX. Remember to quote the relevant reference on all correspondence.



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Handwritten Arabic text: "صكزا من الاصل"



# Making your name in print

In the second of his guides to a media career, Michael Leapman looks at newspapers

Asked in opinion polls about how much we admire various professions, newspaper journalists consistently lurk near the bottom of the league, close to politicians and prostitutes. Yet, paradoxically, more and more young people compete every year for the privilege of standing forlornly in the rain outside the house of a reluctant newsmaker, asking embarrassing questions and then... but only if they get really lucky — shouting: "Hold the front page!"

First degrees in journalism, usually combining practical training with a more academic subject, such as English or social science. About 30 per cent of new journalists still join without any formal qualifications and receive training on the job, often including part-time attendance at a course. Few papers will offer jobs to potential journalists who do not have at least two A levels.

## HOW

Journalists contribute to their own poor image. In 1969 Nick Tomalin (who was later killed covering a war) wrote that the only qualities needed for success in the job are "rattling cunning, a plausible manner and a little literary ability".

**How do I start looking for a course?**  
For a list of undergraduate courses, get *A Student's Guide to Entry to Media Studies*, published by UCAS (01242 222444), at £10. The NCTJ has a list of approved pre-entry courses, but some good colleges and universities do not seek accreditation from the council.

A less cynical view comes from the National Council for the Training of Journalists in a leaflet for youngsters considering career options. It lists some of the necessary attributes as an interest in current affairs and people, clear and grammatical writing, willingness to accept irregular hours and the pressure of deadlines and — most importantly — determination and persistence. (For a copy of the leaflet, ring the NCTJ on 01279 43009, or visit its website at [www.thecharlow.co.uk/nctj/](http://www.thecharlow.co.uk/nctj/).)

**Ask three principal questions before deciding on a course. Is there a properly equipped newsroom with up-to-date computers, and how much access do students get to it? Do the tutors have recent newspaper experience? And what is the success rate of students getting jobs on papers after completing the course?**

Today, an estimated 60 per cent of new journalists are graduates. Most graduates or take some kind of diploma training course, lasting between 16 weeks and a full academic year, before getting their first newspaper post.

Courses invariably include shorthand, with students aiming at a minimum 100 words a minute. Journalists also need a basic knowledge of the law and of how local and national government work. These basic skills are essential whether you plan to join a mass-market tabloid paper or a serious broadsheet.



Journalists have probably shouted "Hold the front page" more in films than in newspaper offices, but for would-be reporters there is always the chance that their time will come

## The way the industry works

Britain has 32 national daily and Sunday papers, 14 regional dailies (mostly evenings) and more than 2,000 weeklies, both free and paid. Whether mass-market tabloids or serious broadsheets they all operate in broadly similar ways, although the precise procedures vary according to paper's frequency and agenda. There are three distinct editorial processes. The first involves executives who generate ideas, commission, write if necessary and have overall control of pages. Then writers, reporters and photographers gather the information and write the stories. The production process then begins with designers who lay out pages and sub-editors who prepare the stories, check them and cut where necessary, and write headlines.

On a daily paper the news editor, in charge of the news desk, is in the office early to check news agency wire services, the basic source of developing news. Reporters are assigned to follow up promising stories and specialist and foreign correspondents are asked whether they have anything to offer. The editor calls a conference of key editorial executives mid-morning to plan the next day's paper. The news editor outlines the news schedule so far.

Ideas for features and leaders (editorials) are discussed. Features come in two kinds. Comment on topical issues is often commissioned only hours before publication, while interviews with celebrities, investigations or coverage of lifestyle issues are prepared in advance. A shorter conference later in the day reviews progress and decides on the probable main story (the "splash"). A night editor comes in during the afternoon and stays until after midnight to supervise changes to late editions.

Foreign: Overseas correspondents enjoy high prestige but are expensive to maintain and the demands on them are great. Resident correspondents need command of the local language, an ability to work alone and cultivate contacts — and not to mind being on a constant call. Critics: Unlimited free tickets for movies, plays and concerts — sounds great but it is a challenge to find something interesting to write about all of them. TV critics need the rare ability to write entertainingly and perceptively day in, day out. Columnists: Holding down a regular column is harder than it looks. It is not just a question of speaking your mind eloquently on issues of the day but of developing an appealing persona and a consistent tone of voice. Feature writers: The late Sir David English used to say he had known only four people who could do news and features equally well. Feature writing is a specialised skill, which involves examining issues or interviewing people in more depth.

**NEXT WEEK: WORKING IN RADIO**

THIS week a TV star was born. Martin Skinner owns his own business and in his words "gives it 110 per cent effort", and expects his staff to do the same. He believes in "commitment, drive and determination" and feels he is "harsh, but fair", with a bark little bit worse than his bite. Martin is one of those businessmen for whom problems are just opportunities. He is struggling to come to terms with the decline of Thatcherite values. "A strange thing in this country, if you've got ambition people think you're weird." Nevertheless, he convinces himself that he's not work-obsessed. "Let's face it,

## Slick euro star solves the ad brief from hell

if you're not enjoying it, there's no point doing it." He delivers all his homilies while stooping around the office screaming in the face of his employees. What agitates Martin, however, is the approach of the euro currency. That's because Martin's not a real-life boss from ITV's latest docu-soap. Britain's Worst Bosses, but the star of the Treasury's major new ad campaign aimed at convincing us to take the euro seriously. This must have been the advertising brief from hell for the TBWA agency, persuade the public to take the euro seriously despite the Government doing the opposite by declining to join in when it launches on January 1, 1999. The advertising had to convey the launch date and the serious-



ness of its impact, but also sensitive to resistance to the idea, and the fact that we won't be one of the 11 countries involved. TBWA's solution was to anticipate all our negative reactions to the euro — from antagonism to apathy. So Martin lambasts his staff when they confess their ignorance. "There's 11 countries round Europe gonna be in it," he shrieks. "We're not one of them, but it doesn't mean we

don't have to be ready." The ads appear to be a result of market research among small and medium-sized businesses that the Treasury undertook in May. This found that only 11 per cent knew the single currency began on January 1, 1999, only 5 per cent had done anything to prepare for it, 17 per cent admitted they didn't know what impact it would have on business, and 46 per cent thought it would have no impact because they worked

## HOW THEY MADE IT TO THE TOP

### From scientist to Editor

Sue Douglas, 41, the former Editor of the Sunday Express



After leaving Southampton University in 1978, where she gained a first-class degree in biochemistry, Ms Douglas started to think she might want to be a journalist. "As a biochemist, I had learnt the clarity and precision of thought that is needed to explain difficult concepts to readers," she says. After a brief spell with a management consultancy, she joined a specialist medical journal and in 1980 went to spend a year in South Africa, where she got a job on the Rand Daily Mail. "I exaggerated my qualifications," she now admits. "I kept telling them my cuttings were in the post."

Returning to London, she did casual stints as a reporter on the News of the World and

then the Daily Mail. The launch of *The Mail on Sunday* in 1982 gave her a foothold on the ladder of success. She began as health correspondent but by the time she left six years later she was an associate editor. Then she moved over to the *Daily Mail* as assistant editor, responsible for the features pages. In 1991 she went to *The Sunday Times*, where she rose to deputy editor before being made Editor of the *Sunday Express* in 1995 — one of the first female editors of a national newspaper. She left when the paper was merged with the *Daily Express* into a single editorial operation, and has since been a consultant editor for *The European* and *The Scotsman*. Her philosophy? "Aim high. Be determined. Editing a national paper is a challenge but it's also great fun."

### The high-flyer from Oxford

Matthew d'Ancona, 30, deputy editor of The Sunday Telegraph



Achieving a First in history in 1989, Mr d'Ancona spent a further year in Oxford as a Fellow of All Souls, undecided between an academic and a journalistic career. Then, in 1991, he began unpaid work for *Index on Censorship*, a magazine that supports oppressed and silenced people across the globe. His ten months there left him convinced that journalism was for him, and he has never regretted the choice. "It's a wonderful job — I was able to talk about what I'd done at *Index on Censorship*. I wasn't discussing abstractions. "Think of a reason why you want to be in a newspaper office, other than because you want to give the world the benefit of your skills. Journalism is a team effort and the people interviewing you want to know that you will be a good and co-operative colleague."

er writer and also wrote bylined commentaries for the Op-ed page. By 1995 he had been promoted to assistant editor. That year he was recruited by *The Sunday Telegraph* as deputy editor of its Comment pages, with a weekly political column. At the beginning of this year he was made deputy editor.

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Passat their Sony campaigns, Walker's Dorito screen and "use your vote" for the Ministry of Sound. They have helped to make BMP DDB's creative output the best regarded of London's larger agencies. So it was inevitable that they would succumb to the challenge of a start-up. However, they have proved smart in their choice of new partner. They are to launch the London office of US agency Fallon McCulligott, which is to open in London.

With only the Lee jeans account, they will find life much tougher. But most observers feel they will succeed. It's a measure of the esteem with which they are regarded that when they resigned BMP's creative director, Larry Barker, was effusive in his praise. Fallon McCulligott will be worth watching.



Bravura performance: Martin Skinner in euro boss role

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The position is available from October 1998, or as soon as possible thereafter. The University runs a personal research incentive scheme, permitting payments of up to £10,000 per annum based on research grant and contract acquisition, in addition to salary.

For informal enquiries please contact Prof Mansoor Sarhad, Head of Department (Tel: 01895 203300, E-mail: mansoor.sarhad@brunel.ac.uk) Closing date for applications is 25th September 1998.

Further particulars can be obtained from Personnel and Staff Development Department, Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 3PH Tel. 01895 812304 (24 hour answerphone) quoting reference 5763.

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If you would like more information and an application form, please send a postcard to:  
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Senior Research Fellowships are normally held until retirement age (subject to renewal by the College every seven years and the requirements of the Education Reform Act, 1998).

Further particulars, including details of emoluments and terms of appointment, application forms, and copies of a memorandum for referees may be obtained from the Warden's Secretary, All Souls College, Oxford OX1 4AL. Applications, on the application form, should reach the Warden not later than 18th September 1998 (the envelope containing the application to be marked 'Senior Research Fellowship'). Applicants are asked to ensure that references, from not more than three referees, also reach the Warden by 18th September 1998.

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The annual pensionable stipend for a Professor with clinical responsibility is £57,800 (£59,040 from 1 December 1998).

Candidates for the Professorship should send a copy of their application, marked 'Confidential', together with the names of two referees, to the Secretary General of the Faculties, from whom further information regarding the Professorship is available, at the General Board Office, The Old Schools, Cambridge CB2 1TT, so as to reach him not later than Monday, 19 October 1998.

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THE TIMES EDUCATION

The rites of reading

Can the introduction of literacy hour in schools really work, asks David Tytler

From this month, lessons will be revolutionised in all English primary schools when a literacy hour is introduced. The lessons in reading and writing will be taught, to a strict format laid down by the Department for Education and Employment, in an effort to improve the poor literacy skills of primary school pupils.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State, expects the literacy hour to improve standards and has found £59 million to back his plans. "The Government has set clear literacy and numeracy targets for 2002. We are determined to see a significant improvement in the unacceptably low achievement of 11-year-olds in the 3Rs."

The review of the primary curriculum was Mr Blunkett's first step in the back-to-basics revolution. There will be less time to teach a range of other subjects, such as history, art, geography, design technology and music. But though all subjects will still be mandatory and schools are required to provide broad and balanced curriculum, they no longer have to cover all aspects of every subject as dictated by the original national curriculum. Critics of the new arrangements believe that pupils will receive a very limited education.

Until now primary schools have argued, with some justification, that the most creative and exciting writing was to be found in subjects such as history, geography and religious education. From this month inspectors will be judging the literacy skills displayed by pupils in these subjects.

Mr Blunkett will have none of it. "For too long," he says, "too many primary school teachers have been prevented from giving literacy and numeracy the attention they deserve because the national curriculum has lacked a very clear focus on the basics that are crucial in primary education. As a result, literacy and numeracy have been too often subsumed into other subjects."

The numeracy hour will follow next September, but the detailed literacy plans leave little leeway for teachers. Each lesson consists of:

- An introductory 15-minute whole-class session and a further 15 minutes on learning new words.
■ Twenty minutes of group and independent work during which the teacher works with at least one ability group each day in reading or writing.
■ Final ten minutes for the whole class to review and reflect on what they have learnt

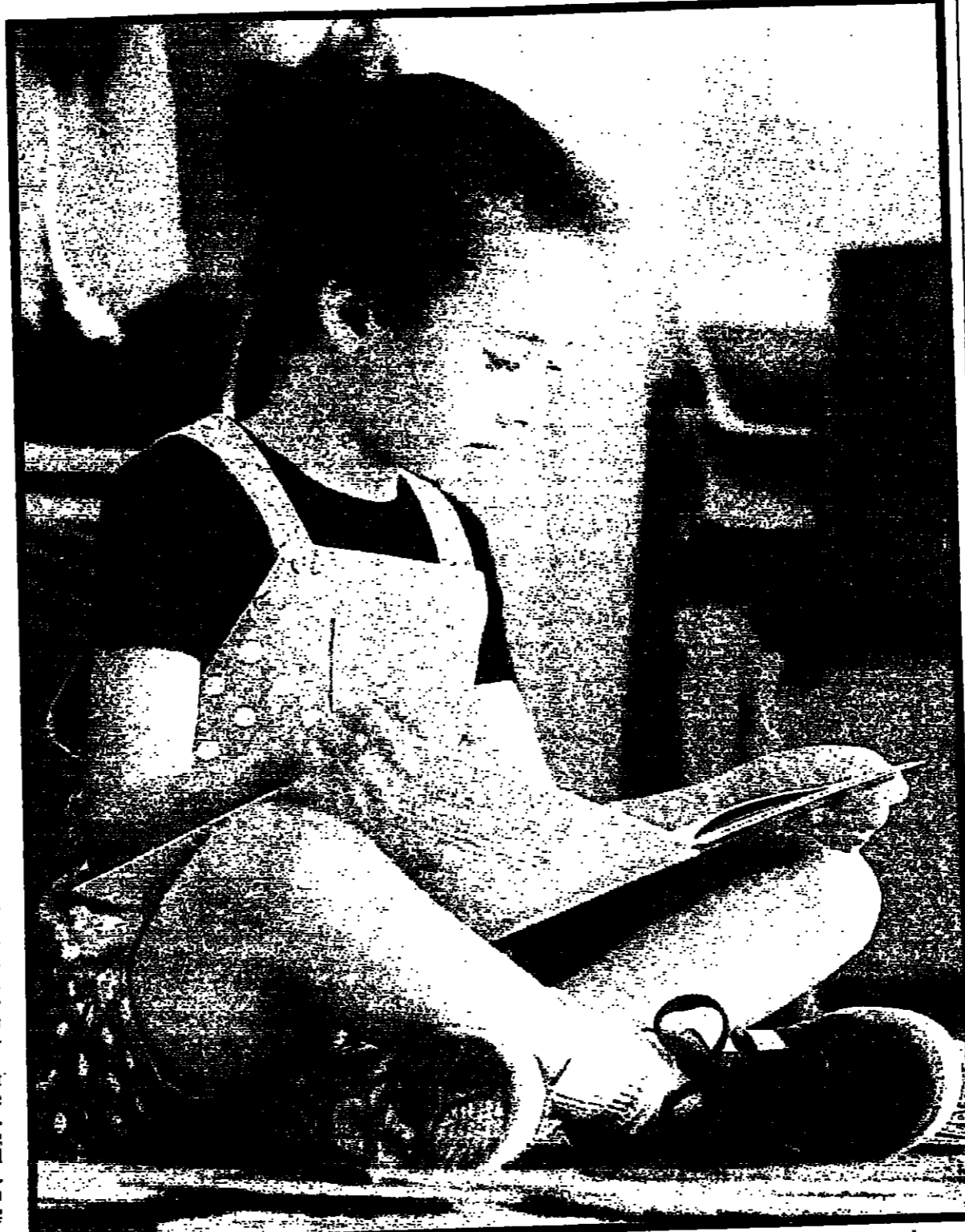
and present their own work to the class. Mr Blunkett has insisted that the literacy hour is not compulsory. Writing to local education authorities earlier this year he said: "Although the national literacy strategy is not a statutory framework there is a clear expectation that schools will adopt it. If a school chooses not to do so there should be a close consultation with the local education authority on the principle that the onus is upon the school to opt out, not to opt in. The LEA, in advising schools, should make a negotiated judgment about whether or not the school should be involved."

This judgment should be based on whether standards are high enough and likely to meet the targets set for 80 per cent of 11-year-olds to achieve the national average as defined in the national curriculum by 2002, whether the school's framework for teaching English is as detailed as that for the literacy hour, and whether it applies to the whole school.

The literacy hour is based on the findings of the national literacy project. It identified three factors that improve standards of literacy: the quality of teaching; the management of literacy across the school; and parental involvement.

Literacy lessons throughout England will be based on the Framework for Teaching, which sets out precise teaching objectives for every term and every year of primary school, giving detailed guidance on how to teach phonics, spelling and grammar.

The routine starts when children enrol in school reception classes. By the end of the year they will be expected to read on sight a range of familiar words, for example, names, captions, labels, words from favourite books and a list of 45 high-frequency words. Teaching will have to be precise and pupils must have a regular assessment so that teachers actually know what they can do.



A head start: pupils will need to read on sight names, captions, labels and 45 high-frequency words

how are the others to be supervised? There will, therefore, be an increased need for other adults in the classroom, either parents who have been given some training, or classroom assistants conversant with the literacy programme. They will have to work under the guidance of the teacher who will provide detailed planning on a daily basis to meet a weekly target.

During the summer term, training courses were arranged for head teachers, literacy co-ordinators and a nominated governor. School inspectors have also been given a day's training on how to inspect literacy. If the teacher follows the guidelines and teaches them effectively, that will be considered to be at least a very good lesson. The literacy hour is, therefore, likely to show a considerable improvement in the teaching of English in primary schools linked to higher standards.

If this does not happen, then Mr Blunkett is certain to face criticism from teachers and politicians. He has set ambitious and measurable targets, largely dependent on a strategy devised and imposed from the centre on a profession that does not easily take to being told what to do. He is playing for high stakes, and cannot afford to fail.

Other possibilities include the Year in Industry scheme, which involves a year's paid work with training and the possibi-

ty of future sponsorship from an employer; graduate holiday placements such as those offered by Barclays Bank; bursaries offered to students already on degree courses, and usually advertised in individual departments or the university careers office; and scholarships. Warwick, for example, has music scholarships for students of all disciplines and Liverpool has 20 places a year for electronics/electrical engineering and computer science and the Services, though offering excellent financial support, want a firm post-graduate commitment.

The average sponsorship — and some do not cover the entire degree course — is estimated at about £1,400 a year and payment for holiday work comes out at about £160 a week.

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Is Mr Blunkett ready to be named and shamed?

For millions of people in Britain, this week marks the start of a new year. Teachers naturally start afresh in September, but many others map out their year from the end of their summer holidays, whatever their diaries might say.

Politicians fall into this group, and none will have his goals set more clearly than David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary. As the electorate was constantly reminded last year, education was a key part of the Labour manifesto, and Mr Blunkett has chosen to define success or failure in highly visible terms.

Within a few months, there will be targets for everything from the reading standards of 11-year-olds to the truancy rate of teenagers. Although in most cases judgment day is safely into the next Parliament, it will be embarrassingly obvious at the next election if one or more goals is not going to be met. This is the year in which Mr Blunkett has to set a climate which ensures that this is not the case.

The standards "crusade", as ministers like to call it, has become a highly personal one since the summer reshuffle which took Stephen Byers to the Treasury. During the Government's first year, Mr Byers played the "hard man" of the ministerial team, leaving a more measured role for Mr Blunkett. The pair were the very embodiment of Labour's promised combination of pressure and support.

Mr Byers took the lead on initiatives such as the "naming and shaming" of failing schools and was seen as close to Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools and *habeat* note of the teaching profession. When education action zones were announced, for example, Mr Blunkett could emphasise the positive impact on schools, leaving Mr Byers to spell out the threat to local authorities.

The arrangement worked well

for both men. Hawkish commentators could attribute measures they liked to Mr Byers, blaming Mr Blunkett for anything smacking of "old Labour". Since the latter generally appealed to teachers, that allowed Mr Blunkett to retain credibility in schools despite persevering with some of the Conservatives' most unpopular policies.

All that will have to stop now. Estelle Morris, Mr Byers's successor, won just praise and promotion for her performance as his junior minister, but would not be convincing as the driving force behind the department. In future Mr Blunkett will have to take all the blame as well as the credit. That will make it twice as hard to carry off this year's key balancing act: keeping the pressure on schools to achieve the improvements the Government seeks without losing the support of the teaching profession.

Recruitment and retention figures for teaching make increasingly depressing reading. And although it is easy to overstate the low morale of the profession when the unions are the main conduit, there is no doubt that many teachers feel let down over pay and still the object of unjustified criticism. Mr Blunkett's first test will be to convince enough of the profession that they could benefit from performance-related pay. This week's poll by the National Union of Teachers showed predictable opposition, which will doubtless intensify when the union holds its special conference on pay in three weeks' time.

Perhaps the most revealing insight into Mr Blunkett's intentions will be his decision on the reappointment of Mr Woodhead, whose contract is due for renewal next year. Nothing would delight the teaching profession more than a new chief inspector, and nothing could do more to confirm the commentators' view of Mr Blunkett as an unreconstructed municipal Socialist in new Labour clothing.



John O'Leary

Less time will be spent teaching other subjects

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You can find out about sponsorship by visiting your local library and looking at *Springboard: Sponsorship for Students*, another useful book, with a whole section on sponsorship, is *Students' Money Matters*. You can also write to the Institution of Mechanical Engineers for its booklet, *Engineering Opportunities*.

Students about to start their A-level studies should send off preliminary letters early. Form-filling will be good practice for you. The Ucas personal statement and you will have "marked your card" with a potential employer.

The obvious carrots of sponsorship are being given money while at university, paid holidays, management training and practical work placements. A recent survey showed that salaries offered to sponsored students when they graduate are about £500 above average. The drawbacks are being tied to one firm, less holiday time and "strings attached".



Racing to win sponsorship: your local library can help to give you a jump start

offer of a full-time job as a chartered accountant. You do, however, need A and B grades, preferably with mathematics, and an A at GCSE maths is mandatory. Big firms such as British Aerospace, Ford and John Laing predominate but there are also smaller companies like Edwards High Vacuum. GCHQ Intelligence has about 20 places a year for electronics/electrical engineering and computer science and the Services, though offering excellent financial support, want a firm post-graduate commitment.

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**France holds to fut**

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**ICE HOCKEY**

# Franchise holds key to future

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA

BRITISH ice hockey stands at the crossroads and the season which starts this weekend is likely to determine whether the sport is to progress in this country or forever remain an esoteric entertainment for a few aficionados.

After a lapse of five years, the principal competition has a sponsor, Sekonda, and professional ice hockey returns to the capital after a multimillion-pound refurbishment of the London Arena, which will be home for the London Knights. The team is owned by the Los Angeles Kings, of the National Hockey League (NHL), and will probably be used by the American parent club as a means of vetting young European players thought to have a future in the NHL.

The key to the future of British ice hockey lies with the London franchise and it is essential that it does well. With the formation of the Continental Cup, there will be four Sekonda Superleague clubs competing in Europe this season: Ayr Scottish Eagles and Manchester Storm in the European League; Cardiff Devils and Sheffield Steelers in the new competition.

Manchester's fine showing in last season's European League was an indication of how the standard of the Superleague has improved and there is no doubt that the British game is attracting a higher standard of player.

Unfortunately, there is still a reluctance on the part of Superleague clubs to encourage British-born players and the national team is dominated by "dual-nationals", most of whom are veterans. For too many years, little regard has been paid to the long-term future of the sport, at club and international level, and this needs to be addressed quickly.

Importing players is an expensive business and all eight Superleague teams find it difficult to break even. In Newcastle, after a disappointing season both on and off the ice, the Cobras seemed likely to follow Basingstoke Bison into oblivion. The League stepped in and took over the club, installing Alex Dampier as coach and Mike O'Connor as manager. Dampier has a long and successful record while O'Connor has strong North East connections, having played with distinction for Durham Wasps.

The way in which Sir John Hall took over the Durham team and moved it to Newcastle caused many Wasps followers to desert the sport. Then Whitley Warriors were evicted from the Newcastle Arena after one season and more North Eastern fans were antagonised. The Dampier and O'Connor connection, some aggressive marketing and a change of name to the Newcastle Riverkings, should see this franchise improve in every respect.

Ayr won everything last season and, as they have made few changes, should be there or thereabouts again. A key player for them was Rob Dopson, their goaltender. He is now in Japan but his replacement has an excellent pedigree: Vincent Riendeau played nearly 200 games in the NHL for Montreal, St Louis, Detroit and Boston.

Goaltending is important for any team and it is significant that Manchester Storm have replaced one former NHL goaltender (Jim Hrivnak) with another, Frank Pietrangolo, who spent seven years at the top level with Pittsburgh and Hartford. Cardiff Devils welcome back Stevie Lyle, who returns after a disappointing attempt to break into the North American game.



Power generation: from the left, Pinsent, Foster, Redgrave and Cracknell will be seeking a smooth passage towards the world title in Cologne

## Pulling alongside the heavyweights

Mike Rosewell on how a young rower became a key part of the Great Britain four pursuing a world title

When the world championships start in Cologne on Sunday, James Cracknell, 26, will be trying for his second gold medal in two years but, in spite of this, he is still "the other one" in the Great Britain coxless four.

He sits at bow behind Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, both with hats of Olympic and world titles, and the ebullient Tim Foster, with world gold and silvers and an Olympic bronze.

Cracknell did a long apprenticeship before that day in 1997. He won a world junior gold in 1990. His crew-mates of that year tended to achieve fame quicker, Greg Searle winning a medal every year since 1991, including Olympic gold and bronze, and Nick Clarry and Peter Bridge hitting the headlines in Boat Race crews and at Henley. Cracknell toiled less publicly. He admitted the rowing

slipped a little while he was studying for a teaching qualification at Reading, but he made the senior team in 1991. Olympic years started badly with a shoulder injury sustained playing rugby and he failed to gain selection. "I was asked to be spare man, but I thought I'd been unfairly treated and refused. I was told that if I didn't go I'd never row for Britain again," he said.

He did, though, gaining a place in the eight in 1993 and 1994, but, with the Atlanta Olympics in mind, he spent the next two years in a double scull with Bobby Thatcher.

The dream of selection was achieved before, on the opening day, Cracknell went down with a virus and two years' work evaporated. "I thought of giving up but decided to give it six months to try for the four. It worked."

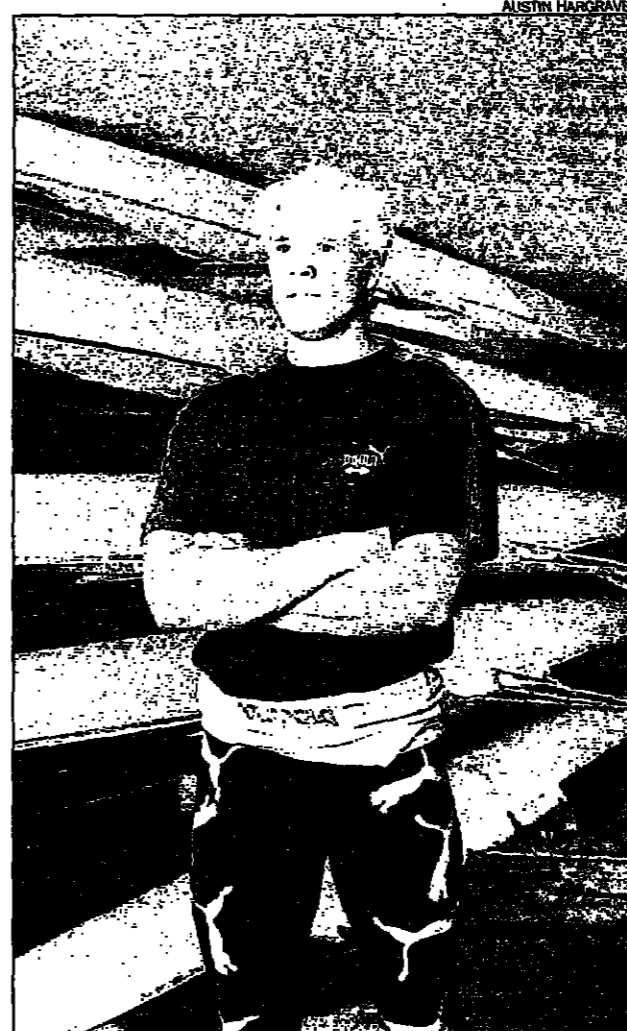
Clearly, "the other one" has

learnt from his first year in the top boat. At 15st, he has come out top in the ergometer tests of the crew this year. Foster is Cracknell's room-mate on training camps — "it's good for me since Tim is very relaxed, the opposite to me."

Cracknell describes Redgrave as "totally focused, you can see the change in him as the championships approach". As for the stroke, Pinsent, "he is amazing in the way he raises his game. At Henley against the Australians he brought us to another level".

He finds it surprising that the four have never had an argument. "No one has got an ego problem. We have all got faith that the four of us are the best people. That throws confrontation out of the window. The total professionalism of Jürgen also helps."

That professionalism includes two or three training sessions a day, seven days a week. A three-week break beckons after the world championships. Whether Cracknell will take it is debatable. "If I have got a bit of spare time, I tend to do a bit extra. As much as we want to beat all the other fours in the world, I want to beat everyone in my four as well."



Cracknell now stands tall among the world's finest rowers

**FOOTBALL**

## Minnows gripped by early dose of Cup fever

NON-LEAGUE REVIEW BY WALTER GAMMIE

RAMSBOTTOM United appear in the FA Cup for the first time tomorrow when they take on Maine Road in the preliminary round.

"It's a very special day for the club, especially for the players," John Maher, the secretary, said. "For them to say they've played in the FA Cup, albeit in September, is a terrific thing for footballers."

It will be no less memorable for Harry Williams, the chairman, who founded Ramsbottom United as a parks side in 1966 and has steered them through the Bury Amateur League, the Bolton Combination and the Manchester League into their present eminence in the North Western Trains League first division.

Putting up floodlights in May last year, a precondition for taking up promotion to the first division just two years after joining the League, was a final step in being accepted into the Cup.

In keeping with their traditions Ramsbottom won promotion with a team that still paid subscriptions to play. Of necessity, things have moved on. Ken Bridge, the manager, now has an experienced assistant in Paul Cuddy, the former Altrincham player, two contracted players and travel expenses for the rest of a young squad.

In Maine Road, Ramsbottom have opponents whom they played in pre-season matches before rising to the same league. Victory would bring the reward of a home tie against Shildon of the Northern League.

Maher said: "We've all seen the World Cup in the summer. Some might call me old-fashioned when I say the FA Cup is still the best competition in the world. You've got the showpiece in May and at the other end you've got the likes of us. It's amazing, isn't it."

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RUGBY UNION

Referees warned not to handle unofficial games

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

REFEREES who officiate in the unauthorised matches at Bedford and Swansea tomorrow will find themselves out-cast, leading administrators from the English and Welsh rugby unions said yesterday. However, at least one former international referee, Tony Spreadbury, is prepared to listen to representations from the English clubs who are organising the series of games with the breakaway Welsh clubs, Cardiff and Swansea.

Yates returns for Bath after ear-biting ban

KEVIN YATES will ease himself back into first-class rugby tomorrow after serving his six-month ban for ear-biting (Mark Souster writes). Yates, 25, has been named as a replacement in the Bath squad for the opening match of the season, against Wasps at the Recreation Ground.

Alun Richards, the delegate to referee Bedford's game with Cardiff at Goldington Road, or any forthcoming match that had not received the official blessing of the Rugby Football Union (RFU), he would receive no more matches in his local constituency.

The same is true of any Welsh official involved in Swansea's game with West Hartlepool at St Helen's. "I know the English clubs have approached a number of panel and immediate past-panel referees and, so far as I know, every one has declined," Nick Bunting, the RFU referee development officer, said.

Cardiff will depart for Bedford this morning only after further quibbles that the game was in jeopardy. The Bedford players have held a series of meetings in relation to alleged shortfalls in their most recent salary payments. The meetings were unconnected with the court case in Bristol which left Mike Rayer a free agent after a dispute with Bedford over the payment of the bonus promised if they won last season's second-division title.

The playing squad have sought reassurances over their future employment from the Bedford board. "We are committed to Bedford so long as Bedford are committed to us, by paying us on time," one of the players said.

Robert Howley, the Wales captain, who is due to play for Cardiff despite the possibility of sanctions for the WRU for breach of contract, spoke for many when he said: "At the moment players like myself are being used as pawns in the power battle between Cardiff, Swansea and the WRU. The sooner the matter is sorted out, the better for everyone involved."

TENNIS: WORLD No 1 KEEPS HER COMPOSURE IN DEFEAT OF MAJOLI



Arantxa Sanchez Vicario puts all her effort into a double-handed backhand during her victory over Fabiola Zuluaga.

Hingis shows requisite scorn

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN NEW YORK

HELL hath no fury like a woman scorned, or so it is said, and opponents know no fury like a world champion Hingis. Yesterday Martina Hingis took her appointed place in the third round with a 7-6, 6-0 victory over Iva Majoli, recovering from a spirited first-set performance by the former French Open champion and the fact that Julian Alonso, her boyfriend, has announced that it is all over between them.

back in the seventh game and suddenly started to grow in confidence. Taking the ball early and pounding her shots from well inside the baseline, she was matching the world No 1 shot for shot. Only in the tie-break did she start to miss the target and that was all the coaxing Hingis needed. As Majoli fell apart, Hingis showed the world who was boss, boyfriend or no boyfriend. Another player having man trouble is Raluca Sandu, who is better known as the girlfriend of Carlos Moyá. Ever since she met the dashing young Spanish No 1, her tennis career has ground to a halt.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Smith puts in appeal against ban

SWIMMING: Michelle Smith, the Irish triple Olympic champion, has made an eleventh-hour appeal against the four-year suspension imposed on her by Fina, the international governing body, for swimming that accused her of tampering with a drug test urine sample (Craig Lord writes). Smith, 28, maintains that she does not know how a dose of alcohol strong enough to have killed her had it passed through her digestive system could have been present in a urine sample that she provided to out-of-competition testers at her Kilkenny home on January 10.

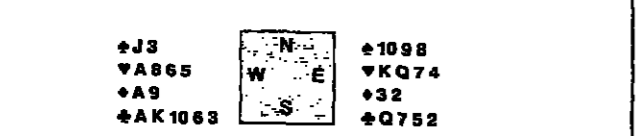
SNookER: Jimmy White was beaten in the final qualifying round of the China Players by a part-time player who must now seek the permission of his employers to travel to the event. White, whose fifth child is due to be born this week, inevitably found his usual focus elusive during a 5-2 defeat by Jon Birch, of Middlesbrough, who has taken to supplementing his modest snooker income by selling fitted kitchens.

RACING: Dr Michael Diserens, who stroked the winning Oxford University crews of 1979 and 1980 against Cambridge and went on to be a member of the Great Britain lightweight rowing squad in 1988 and 1989, had died at the age of 39 after being taken ill while on a family holiday in Scotland.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

When I began the series on MiniBridge, I was concerned only with playing to make as many tricks as possible. After a few articles I introduced the concept of targets which suggested the number of tricks to aim for depending on the combined point-count of the declaring side (see Lesson 11).



Play through the hand and decide how many tricks you would make with clubs as trumps, with hearts as trumps and at no-trumps. The score for a successful contract generally depends upon two things, the denomination (the trump suit, or no-trumps) and the level (the number of tricks aimed for). Today I will consider the denomination and next week the level. The declaring side, which, by definition, has more points than the defending side, should always expect to make more than half the tricks. Thus the declaring side only scores for the number of tricks it wins above six.

On the above hand with clubs as trumps you should make ten tricks: five trumps, four hearts and one diamond. Clubs and diamonds are known as the minor suits and each trick above six is worth 20 points. Thus ten tricks in clubs scores 80 points (4 x 20).

WORD-WATCHING

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT



White: Boris Gelfand Black: Alexei Shirov Polanica Zdroj 1998 King's Indian Defence

Times book The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

WINNING MOVE

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL: NATIONAL LEAGUE: Chicago Cubs 4 Cincinnati 2; San Francisco 12 Montreal 3; St Louis 1 Florida 4; Arizona 2 Pittsburgh 1 (11 Innings); Houston 4 Atlanta 2; Milwaukee 6 Colorado 4; Los Angeles 6 Philadelphia 0; New York Mets 4 San Diego 1.

CRICKET: SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Third day of the match between Gloucestershire (160 R; 100-4) and Kent (100 R; 100-4) at Lord's. Gloucestershire won by 10 runs.

FOOTBALL: THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: Midlands Conference: Stoke City 2 Port Vale 2.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS' CUP: Qualifying group winners: Romania 7, Switzerland 6, Hungary 4, Czech Republic 3.

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COMPANY GOLF DAYS RESULTS

Chris Mc Chan... HAYDOCK PARK... 2.00... 2.30... 3.00... 3.35... Lujain triumph

Chris McGrath meets the trainer enjoying his second career at the top Channon quite content to dream on

It is hard to say which reflects most credit on Mick Channon - that he should have treated the fulfillment of his childhood dreams only as a platform for those of his maturity, or that it is impossible to resist the air of enchantment that has nourished him throughout. He is justly confident in the gifts that have served him, his nimble feet and then his nimble wits, first as an international footballer and now as a trainer of racehorses. Yet he retains a beguiling sense of wonder. "Put it this way," he said at Salisbury yesterday, after Cauda Equina had become the 51st winner of his ninth season. "I wouldn't consider that I've ever had to do a day's work in my life. Don't get me wrong, we put in the hours, all right. But I feel very lucky." In one respect he was admirably equipped for a profession that makes an art form of flitting at windmills, having famously retired that arm 233 times in 718 league appearances between 1966 and 1986, not to mention after 21 goals for England. In others, however, he was attempting something so presumptuous that it took all the substance and honesty that he has taken seriously. This, then, is very much the breakthrough season for Channon. In Bint Allay and Jose Algharoud, he has shown impeccable judgment to produce two of the most promising young horses in the land from his Upper Lambour stables. Bint Allay is favourite for the 1,000 Guineas after swagging wins at Royal Ascot



Channon, who has much to look forward to, gives Natalie Jay a pat after she had finished third at Salisbury yesterday

and York. The colt, if less flamboyant, promised every bit as much for the longer term in the Gômrack Stakes. "People ask me which is the best," he said. "But they're just so different. Bint Allay is the quickest I've ever trained. She just does it, wallow. Fills the eye. You'd have to be an idiot

not to see it. Josr, though, he just shuffles along. He's more of a streetfighter. You have to grab hold of him to make him go about his business, but he has a great attitude. He'll do anything you ask him, without necessarily being impressed. But her, well, she'd just slaughter anything."

When he refers to "Josr", he reduces the exotic name to something that sounds, in those robust but mellifluous Whitshire tones, very like "Joshua" - for all the world as though this limping, smiling countryman were some true-grained invention of Thomas Hardy. Yet these outlandish

arrivals represented the confidence of Sheikh Ahmed al-Maktoum, whose brothers are the pre-eminent force in flat racing. "I nearly fell off my chair," Channon remembered. "I had two for him that weren't much good. And you couldn't expect to get any more after that."

The injection of such blue blood, however, may also develop an immunity against a novel source of pain. For it would be surprising if he could keep both his young stars when Godolphin assembles the Maktoums' elite for a winter in the desert. "I can't let it bother me, can I?" he shrugs. "No point worrying. I wouldn't get any sleep. I'm paid to train them this year, and that's exactly what I'm doing." Having said that, there is a wistful tenor to his admission that he wants nothing so much as to win a classic. "Either way, however, he has made his point. Channon has never been a problem - he had 74 winners four seasons ago - but now he is scoring at the highest level, at Ascot as at Wembley. "Rules are there to be broken, or amended at least," he said. "The mould is being broken. You can no longer say that the only people who can train horses are ex-public schoolboys or trainers' sons. "I played football until I was 38. Then one morning you wake up, and realise that you're still Mick Channon but all of a sudden nobody wants you. I tell you what, it's a bloody shock. Wherever you are in life, you've got your pride. So I got up and thought I'd better do something about it. Looking back, I must have been crazy. All the things you can see now, that could have gone wrong - I tell you, it's frightening. Maybe so, though Mick Channon does not come over as the frightened type. But then nor does he make a habit of getting things wrong.

HAYDOCK PARK THUNDERER 2.00 Woodwell View, 2.30 Lennox, 3.00 Flack Jacket, 3.35 Marmas F.C., 4.05 Aspiant Dancer, 4.40 Petraco, 5.10 Chued Up.

4.05 NORTHWEST HOLST CONSTRUCTION HANDICAP (SHOWCASE AND TOTE TRUFEITA RACE) (3-Y-O: £3,776; 1m 31 200y) (19)

2.50 SEPTEMBER MOURNERS (22,355; 2m 51 10y) (14)

2.20 JOHN WADE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,716; 2m 11) (13 runners)

3.55 FILMCO HANDICAP CHASE (£3,470; 2m 51) (8)

2.00 EBF PENTONS HAIRLAGE AND GOLDSTOR 2.00 MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,680; 50) (17 runners)

4.40 OUTLAND SELLING HANDICAP (£2,402; 6) (24)

3.25 SAM BERRY VIOLES CHASE (£2,960; 2m 51) (13)

2.50 JOHN WADE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,716; 2m 11) (13 runners)

5.00 AUTUMN CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,954; 2m 11) (8)

2.30 KEITH BITSON MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,889; 1m 30y) (17)

3.00 EBF KINGS REGIMENT CUP CLASSIFIED STAKES (£7,035; 6) (8)

3.25 SAM BERRY VIOLES CHASE (£2,960; 2m 51) (13)

5.00 AUTUMN CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,954; 2m 11) (8)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

3.35 SCOTT BATES AND COMPANY CLAIMING STAKES (11-Y-O: £2,558; 6) (22)

5.10 BOLLINGER CHAMPAGNE CHALLENGE SERIES HANDICAP (Amateurs); £2,843; 1m 21 120y) (10)

3.25 SAM BERRY VIOLES CHASE (£2,960; 2m 51) (13)

5.00 AUTUMN CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,954; 2m 11) (8)

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COURSE SPECIALISTS

Lujain triumphs in classic style

LUJAIN swept to an impressive victory in the Newton Fund Managers Novice Stakes at York yesterday and was cut from 16-1 to 14-1 with William Hill for the 2,000 Guineas. The 94 on chance enjoyed little more than an exercise canter in the hands of Frankie Dettori to beat Trinity by five lengths. The winner was carrying the colours of Sheikh Mohammed but there is a chance that he could be transferred to the blue of Godolphin over the winter. David Loder, his trainer, said: "There's a possibility he might race again this season - equally he might run once more. He's in all the big races. He's a nice horse for next year and will be aimed at the 1,000 Guineas. His dam, Saint

but failed to come up with a persuasive argument for his owner, Prince Faisal, to supplement him for the St. Leger. John Dunlop, his trainer, said: "We would like to have seen him win in a canter which, in truth, he didn't do. The St Leger will take a bit of thinking about." Exclusive: the Coronation Stakes winner, will miss the Prix du Moulin on Sunday, reducing the British challenge to Desert Prince and Almutrak. John Reid will ride Desert Prince in the Newmarket Handicap. Another big-race absentee is Captain Scott, who will miss the Tote Cambridgeshire. The four-year-old, a 16-1 shot when the sponsors, will not be fit to attempt to give Jeremy Glover his fifth win in the Newmarket Handicap.

Pardubicka challenge

FIVE English and Irish-trained horses were yesterday entered for the Velka Pardubicka, the Czech Grand National, on October 11. They are led by Risk Of Thunder, three times a winner of the La Touche Cup bank race at the Punchestown Festival for Enda Bolger. The four English possibilities are Superior Finish, Irish Stager, General Crack and Amber Valley.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Table with columns for race name, winner, runner-up, and odds. Races include York, Salisbury, Fontwell, and various handicap races.

EPSOM

Table with columns for race name, winner, runner-up, and odds. Races include Thunderer, Timekeeper's top rating, and Southeur.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

Table with columns for race name, winner, runner-up, and odds. Races include 103 (17) 0-4522, 2.10 Michael J. Lonsdale, and 2.40 United House Nursery Handicap.

2.10 MICHAEL J. LONSDALE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES

Table with columns for race name, winner, runner-up, and odds.

2.40 UNITED HOUSE NURSERY HANDICAP

Table with columns for race name, winner, runner-up, and odds.

3.15 VALLANT RATED HANDICAP

Table with columns for race name, winner, runner-up, and odds.

3.45 AIR BROSSO GROUP FORTUNE STAKES

Table with columns for race name, winner, runner-up, and odds.

4.20 BMU AIR CONDITIONING MAIDEN STAKES

Table with columns for race name, winner, runner-up, and odds.

4.50 GRUNDFOSS HANDICAP

Table with columns for race name, winner, runner-up, and odds.

FORM FOCUS

Channon's 51st winner of his ninth season. He is justly confident in the gifts that have served him, his nimble feet and then his nimble wits, first as an international footballer and now as a trainer of racehorses.

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Bill hands over

TOM BILL, who trained Cross Master to win the 1985 Sun Alliance Chase, has handed over his licence to Chris Kelleher, his assistant. The Ashby de Zouch trainer also saddled Northern Bay to win the 1985 National Hunt Chase and Pan Arctic, who sprang a 100-1 surprise in a novice chase at Aintree in 1985.

RACELINE 101 201 102 202 103 203 120 220 FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

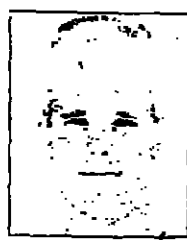












**ROWING 45**  
Cracknell pulls his weight in illustrious company

# SPORT

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 4 1998

**TENNIS 46**

Sánchez Vicario leads march of seeds into US Open third round



Super League proposals unveiled

## English clubs close ranks over Europe

By Rob Hughes and John Goodbody

ALL those who follow the fortunes of English football must wonder whether debate over the so-called Super League really belongs in Lancaster Gate. Perhaps Threadneedle Street would be a more appropriate location.

Yesterday, the 30 clubs that make up the FA Cup Premier League heard counter bids from Media Partners, the proposers of an independent European League, and from Gerd Aigner, the general secretary of Uefa, who are trying to hold onto the clubs and the vast income that the Champions' League has generated.

Peter Leaver, chief executive of the Premier League, finally emerged to say: "There will be no breakaways or splits." The clubs, he claimed, were united and unanimous in opposing a breakaway, but agreed that reform of the European club competitions was necessary.

The chairman or chief executives of the clubs had heard Peter Ekelund, a director of Media Partners, state that a European League would consist of two competitions, the Super League and a secondary tournament, a knockout event to be known as the ProCup.

"In cold hard cash," Ekelund said, "this means that the six English clubs in the ProCup will share at least \$45 million, and the four clubs in the Super League will get a total of \$70 million. In sterling, that equates to £6.8 million per club per year in the knockout competition, and £14 million for each club in the Super League.

So, while there was apparently no admission of Manchester United and Arsenal for taking part in secret discussions with Media Partners in recent months, it appears that the clubs will now offer a united front... at least until

they hear the full outline of Uefa counter-proposals in December.

The clubs are sitting pretty. They know what is on the table from Media Partners and know that this pressurises Uefa to restructure its own competitions, to their financial benefit.

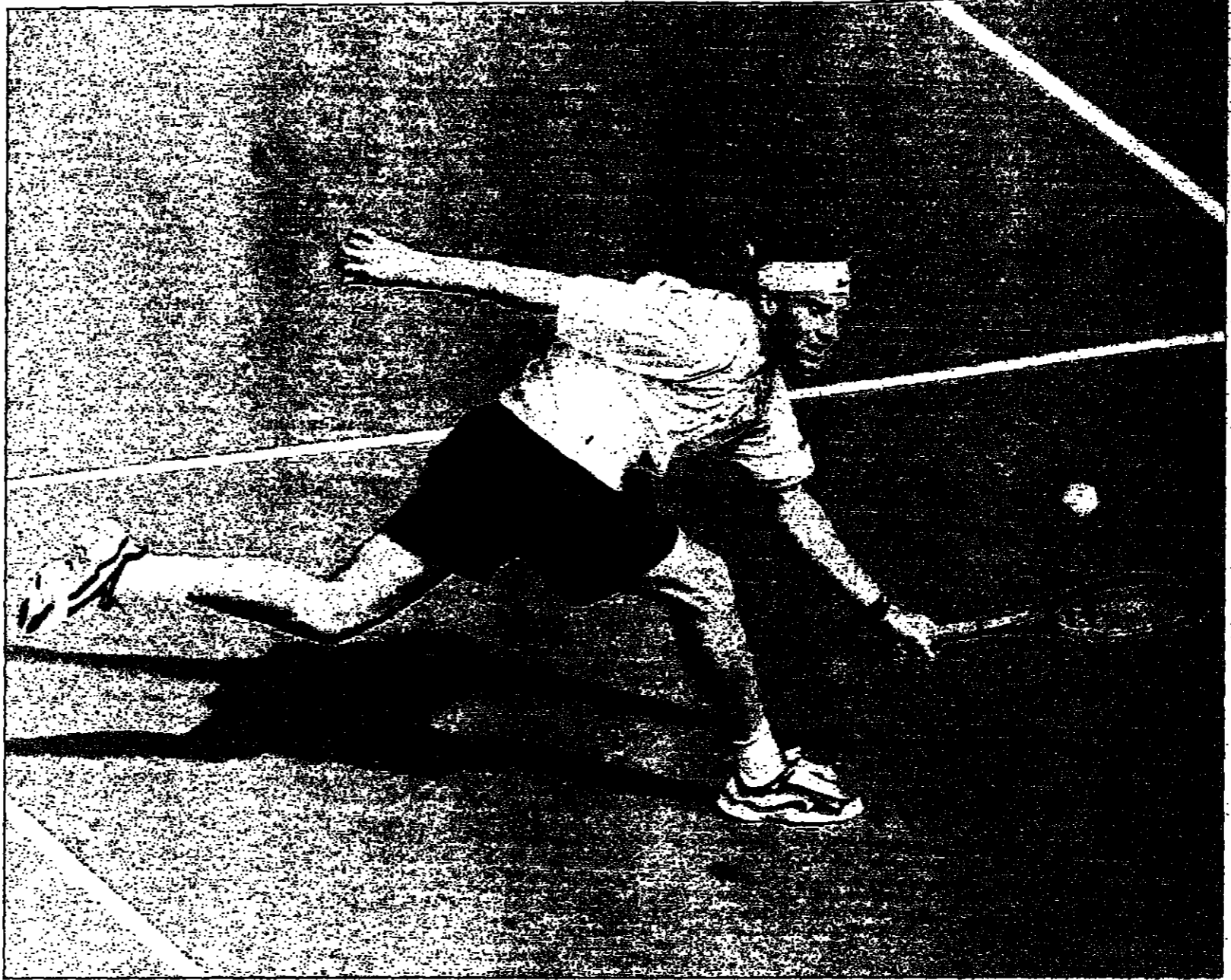
"The clubs have the best of both worlds," Leaver said.

**THE SUPER LEAGUE AND PROCUP**

- The Super League will have 36 clubs, including four English clubs, in three divisions of 12
- Each club plays 11 games plus up to seven play-offs
- 16 of the 36 clubs will be "founder clubs" entitled to play in the competition for three years. England's three founder clubs are Manchester United, Arsenal and Liverpool
- The remaining 18 will be chosen on the basis of domestic performance
- The ProCup will be a knockout involving 96 clubs, including six English clubs
- The six English ProCup clubs will share at least £27 million; the four in the Super League will receive £42m

observed. "They can keep the stable diet of domestic football, and have the icing on the cake of Europe."

More European football, threatening certainly the Worthington Cup, and maybe even the FA Cup, is assured. If Media Partners win the day, their Super League, starting in the 2000-2001 season, will involve 36 clubs playing in three



Rusedski stretches across court to make a return during his gruelling five-set contest against Ullrich at Flushing Meadows yesterday

## Rusedski rallies to fight another day

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN NEW YORK

GREG RUSEDSKI is dancing with the devil and somehow surviving to tell the tale. After resisting two match points against Wayne Ferreira in the first round on Tuesday, Rusedski repelled one more against Bohdan Ullrich before slaying his Czech opponent with an act of supreme defiance at the US Open here yesterday.

It seems that nothing can break Rusedski's resilience. As with his attritional confrontation with Ferreira, he rallied from a two-sets-to-one deficit. His apocalyptic service, a stuttering presence for much of the match, exploded into life when he most needed it — not least when he confronted two break points at 3-4 in the decisive set.

Those were match points in all bar definition yet Rusedski poised himself, unleashed his thunderbolts and levelled the match. Two games later, and facing that match point, Rusedski missed his first serve before unloading a second serve so heavy with kick that it utterly deceived Ullrich. The Czech could barely get racket to ball and his hopes of victory disappeared. Ullrich looked like a cold-faced assassin for much of the match but it was Rusedski who had ice in his veins.

It has now taken the Briton six hours of hard labour to reach the third round, a detail bound to compromise his assault on this grand-slam title. Nevertheless, it was impossible not to be struck by the depth of his courage. For the first two sets Ullrich tormented him with a brilliantly executed gameplan, a combination of lobs, angles and fiercely-driven passes.

But Rusedski, seeded No 6 and a finalist here 12 months ago, remains the supreme competitor. He clung to Ullrich by his coat-tails, somehow contriving to break through and level the match at one set-all. At that point it seemed he might have taken the Czech's measure but Ullrich, world ranked No 35, immediately responded to claim the third after Rusedski failed to convert no less than nine break points. Back Rusedski came to level

for the second time, prompting a fifth set high in drama, if not in quality. Ullrich eventually went down like a giant ocean liner, broken beyond repair by Rusedski's titanic service. The Briton was again below his best but he had somehow penetrated Ullrich's defensive shield. His 4-6, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2, 7-5 victory projects him towards a match with the winner between Jan Siemerink and Dominik Hrbaty, who were playing last night. It is a prospect neither man will relish.

A dark horse for the men's title is Karol Kucera, seeded No 9 and now in the form which saw him dismiss Pete Sampras en route to the semi-finals of the Australian Open in January. Kucera beat Steve Campbell, a local favourite, in the opening round and produced an encore yesterday against far stiffer opposition. The big-

hitting Jerome Golmard, conqueror of Tim Henman in the Australian Open, was brushed aside 7-5, 6-3, 6-0 in a manner suggesting that Kucera will be a threat to all.

Jonas Bjorkman, of Sweden, has struggled to match his rise to prominence 12 months ago, when he reached No 3 in the world and the semi-finals here. Almost ousted in a five-set struggle by Cedric Pioline in the opening round, Bjorkman, seeded No 12, rebounded to rout Jonathan Stark, the big-serving American, for the loss of six games. Bjorkman's stroll will have bolstered his confidence for his third-round encounter with Fabrice Santoro, of France. Should Rused-

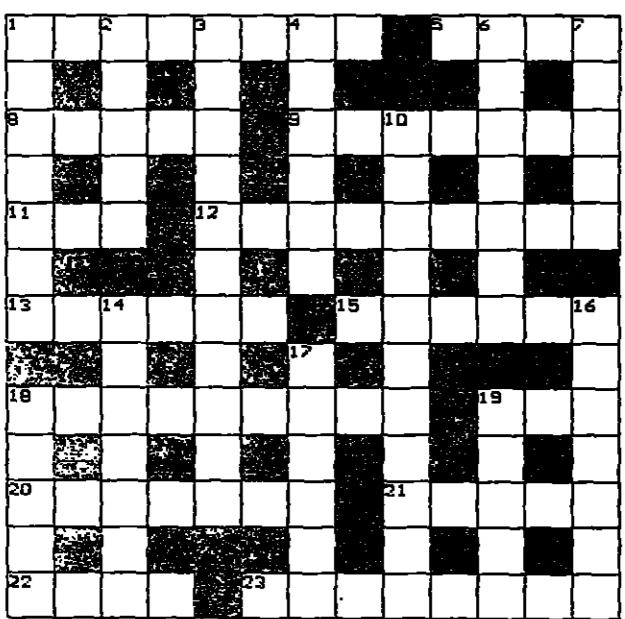
ski come through his third-round match, he will play the winner between Bjorkman and Santoro.

The day opened with the tennis community, international travellers en masse, reflecting on Marc Rosset's good fortune in missing the fatal Swissair flight to Geneva which plunged into the sea off Nova Scotia last night. The Swiss player, a first-round loser on Tuesday, reserved a place on the aircraft but subsequently cancelled his booking to stay here and practice.

A heavy demand for practice courts meant that Rosset was unable to find time to work under the eye of his French coach, Pierre Simolo. That detail alone prompted Rosset, a former top-ten player, to delay his intended departure from Kennedy International Airport for a few days.

Fears that Cedric Pioline, who lost to Jonas Bjorkman in the opening round on Monday, was on board were dispelled when it emerged that the French No 1 had instead flown to Paris.

### TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1502

**ACROSS**

- 1 Possessive case (8)
- 5 Spoil (chances): satellite aerial (4)
- 8 Horrify (5)
- 9 Guardianship: arrest (7)
- 11 Put down; poem (3)
- 12 State of separateness (9)
- 13 Purpose: plan (6)
- 15 Become more amenable (6)
- 18 First Gk tragedian (9)
- 19 Interval: space (3)
- 20 A dolphin: a loud breather (7)
- 21 — Wains, hymenoid: — Newton (5)
- 22 Armoured vehicle: glass container (4)

**DOWN**

- 23 Flower lonely as cloud poet saw (8)
- 1 Old and twisted (7)
- 2 Baby's cloth (5)
- 3 Ineffective parliament (7,4)
- 4 Conqueror (6)
- 6 Regard with worship (7)
- 7 Creation composer (5)
- 10 Terrified (6,5)
- 14 Bear: hold up (7)
- 16 Characteristic (7)
- 17 Northernmost US state (6)
- 18 (Thieves') jargon (5)
- 19 Chemical-secreting organ (5)

**SOLUTION TO NO 1501**

ACROSS: 6 Green fingers 7 Patent 8 Sparks 9 Leda  
10 Hoarding 12 Hand over 16 Corn 18 Drawer  
20 Numbly 21 Milk-and-water

DOWN: 1 Hereward 2 Snatch 3 Fiesta 4 Agra  
5 Broken 6 Grace 11 Decimate 13 Afraid 14 Verona  
15 Renown 17 Ruler 19 Wake

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The Times Two Crosswords (Book 7 £2.99, The Times Crosswords Book 20 £3.99, £2.99, The Times Lunch Crosswords Book 2 £1 available to Times readers for just 4 99p) are available last from The Times Bookshop. The Times Computer Crosswords on disk may also be ordered, with free delivery, along with any other books from The Times Bookshop. To order simply call 01453 445145 for credit card orders or for further details. If paying by cheque, please make payable to Times Books/Crosswords and send to The Times Bookshop, PO Box 348, Falmouth, TR11 2YX. Delivery in 10-14 days and subject to availability.

## Lloyd is handed a final warning

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

EMBARRASSMENT was addressed, honour restored and an asset retained yesterday when David Lloyd, the England coach, received a severe reprimand from his employers for questioning the action of Muralitharan, the Sri Lanka off-spinner. Any harsher punishment would have been as inappropriate as the initial remarks.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) stated that an affair which began with some churlish, coded comments and escalated through an acrimonious scene with Geoffrey Boycott into something akin to a witch-hunt, is now closed and that Lloyd will continue with his duties this winter.

This is as it should be, for the notion that Lloyd might be sacked owed far more to media blood-lust than to any sound logic. The offence did not merit such extreme measures, the England players would have been outraged and the national team left rudderless at a time when, organisationally, it is functioning well.

However, as this is Lloyd's second such warning after an overwrought performance in Zimbabwe two winters ago, he will know that one further

transgression will cost him a job he holds dear and does, in almost every way, better than any previous incumbent.

Lloyd travelled to London for what amounted to an inquiry. The ECB had not made it a disciplinary issue and nor was Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, the chairman, present.

Instead, the matter was judged by Tim Lamb, the chief executive, and Simon Pack, the International Teams Director, along with the board's personnel manager, Lesley Portlock. Lamb emerged from the meeting to say that Lloyd had been "severely reprimanded, warned again about his conduct and left in no doubt as to the responsibilities that go with such a high-profile position".

In football-speak, it was not just a ticking-off, more like a yellow card. Lloyd issued an apology in the direction of the Sri Lankans. "I'm sorry for the offence I have caused. I'm glad this whole business is over and I'm looking forward to the winter tours."

It is doubtful whether the Sri Lankans will be mollified. They protested informally to the ECB soon after the BBC

television interview in which Lloyd said of Muralitharan: "If that action is all right, let's find one like it." Yesterday, the Sri Lanka captain, Arjuna Ranatunga, fanned the flames by saying that he did not care if Lloyd lost his job. "No coach should make comments like that," he said.

There is no doubt that Lloyd was wrong to cast public aspersions and utterly misguided in uttering them at a time when Muralitharan — now being pursued by a queue of counties — was winning a Test match with some of the most remarkable figures in cricket history. Like it

or not, sour grapes was the natural interpretation.

The barney with Boycott was not too clever, either, for it showed Lloyd at his most hot-headed. There is a background to both incidents, however, that is not generally known. The Sri Lankans complained that Lloyd should have addressed any comments through the match referee, rather than the media, but in fact he had already done so. I understand that Ahmed Ebrahim, the International Cricket Council referee, has corresponded with Lloyd on the matter after the England coach raised his concerns, in writing, during the Emirates Trophy one-day tournament.

Lloyd has to be taken for what he is, which is a brilliant motivator but certainly not a diplomat. Boycott is no diplomat, either, but his on-air snipe at Lloyd actually brought the pair together after a silent feud that has lasted two years. They exchanged views vehemently, but in private, and then shook hands. If they can now agree to work together, some good may emerge from a regrettable, overblown episode.



Lloyd: reprimanded

Lancashire win, page 49

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